

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 21

Section 1

May 1, 1939

**WHOLESALE TRADE RISES**      Dollar volume of wholesale trade in the United States in the first quarter of this year totaled \$4,600,000,000, an increase of \$200,000,000 over the 1938 quarter, the Department of Commerce estimated yesterday. March sales were placed at 4.8 percent above those of the previous March. The report pointed out that the first quarter of 1937 was "one of the most highly successful periods in recent years" but in that quarter sales were only 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  percent above those of the quarter just closed, while prices now are more than 10 percent lower than in 1937. "The significance of the report for the first three months of this year," Secretary Hopkins said, "is that wholesale trade has regained approximately 20 percent of the dollar sales volume lost between the high and low points of the 1937-38 business cycle." (Washington Post.)

**COTTON SITUATION**      Exceptionally high domestic consumption, unusually small exports, high spot prices of American cotton relative to futures quotations, and small stocks of "free" American cotton in the presence of record total stocks, continue to feature the present cotton situation, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. An important recent development is the proposed domestic export subsidy, which apparently has already resulted in market price adjustments which have partly eliminated the disparity between prices of American and foreign growths in foreign markets. Domestic mill consumption of 649,000 bales in March was one-fourth larger than in March last year, the second largest for the month in twelve years, and probably the third largest March consumption in the history of the industry.

**RECLAIMED WHEAT**      "Crop scares from the winter wheat belt and reports that farmers were accepting liberal offers to take off the hands of the Commodity Credit Corporation the wheat that they had pledged with it for loans, brought the most active market in the staple grain last week since the days of the pre-Munich crisis last fall," says John M. Collins in a Kansas City report to the New York Times. "The volume of trading increased measurably in all markets...Drying of the top soil by high winds and high temperatures is taking the crop back in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, according to crop observers..."

FSA Clients' Economic Improvement      Secretary Wallace announces that a nation-wide survey of Farm Security Administration borrowers, many of whom were once on relief, showed they not only were rapidly repaying their loans, but also were making long strides toward better living and security. The survey, covering 232,947 typical families in the FSA rehabilitation program, showed they had increased their aggregate net worth -- over and above all debts -- by \$61,817,903 since obtaining loans. This was an average increase of \$265.37 per family, or 37.4 percent. By March 1, the FSA had collected \$77,317,579 out of the total of \$261,809,647 it had loaned to 444,782 individual borrowers, although much of the money will not be due for four or five years. It is estimated that between 70 and 80 percent of the funds loaned will be repaid eventually with interest. Losses are largely concentrated in areas of the Great Plains which have suffered several years of severe drought. Field workers estimated that at least 68 percent of the borrowers covered would repay in full, in addition to those who are repaying only part of their obligations. The secretary said that the survey demonstrated conclusively the economic as well as the social wisdom of the government's investments in loans to low-income farmers. Virtually all of the loans, he added, were made to farmers who were either on relief rolls or threatened with the need for relief. The report indicated, however, that despite the help given, 22 percent of the families still lacked adequate beds; 16 percent had inadequate stoves; 34 percent did not receive adequate medical attention; 42 percent did not have sanitary protected water supplies; 38 percent lived in unscreened houses; and 58 percent of the families were still without sanitary toilets. The 232,947 families had an aggregate net worth of \$165,240,197 when they obtained their loans, or an average of \$709.34 per family. By the end of the 1938 crop year they were worth \$227,058,100, or an average of \$974.71, above all debts, including their obligations to the government. The borrowers had tripled their production of food for home consumption. The families had increased their acres operated from an average of 70 to 131, or 87 percent. The average farmer when he got his loan had only 1.2 work animals. By the end of the 1938 crop year, he had increased this to an average of 2.2 animals or 84.4 percent.

Box Silos for South Brackeen, in *Country Gentleman* (May).      "A box silo, suitable for Southern farmers to use in storing silage at a reasonable cost, has been developed by the South Carolina Experiment Station," reports L. O. "The box silo is a rectangular structure of lumber with a galvanized roof. The silo is 12 feet high, 12 feet wide and 60 feet long, having an estimated capacity of 175 tons of silage made of approximately 80 percent sorghum and 20 percent soybeans. Exclusive of the roof, the structure costs \$149.66, or 85 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents per ton capacity. Advantages of the box silo, as listed by J. P. LaMaster, head of the dairy department of the station, are: Low construction cost, using lumber on the farm; no skilled labor needed for construction; more convenient to remove silage than from a trench silo;

may be enlarged as requirements demand; no danger of seepage as is often the case with trench silos; and it has a special application to the coastal-plains area where the high water table makes trench silos impractical. A mimeographed report telling how to construct a box silo has been prepared by Mr. LaMaster."

Senate                      Both Houses agreed to the conference report on H.R. April 27                      5219, second deficiency appropriation bill. The House agreed to the Senate amendment providing \$100,000 for Dutch elm disease eradication. This bill will now be sent to the President. The bill as finally passed contains the following items for this Department: Fighting forest fires, \$2,480,000; \$60,000 of hurricane-damage appropriation authorized to be spent in N. Y.; Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, \$15,000; Dutch elm disease eradication, \$100,000; international production control committees, limitation raised from \$17,500 to \$25,500.

Both Houses received the President's message asking appropriations for work relief and relief for 1940 (H. Doc. 270); ref. to Committees on Appropriations. The message requests \$1,477,000,000 for Works Progress Administration, \$125,000,000 for National Youth Administration, and \$123,000,000 for Farm Security Administration.

Both Houses received the President's message transmitting the Bureau of Public Roads report on transcontinental superhighways (H. Doc. 272); ref. to Senate Com. on Post Offices and Post Roads and House Com. on Roads.

Both Houses received from the President a T. V. A. report, "Supplemental Phases of the Interterritorial Freight Rate Problem of the United States" (H. Doc. 271).

The Senate agreed to the conference report on H. R. 4852, Interior Department appropriation bill.

Mr. Barbour submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to H. R. 5269, agricultural appropriation bill, to increase eradication of tuberculosis and Bang's disease from \$7,175,000 to \$9,800,000. Mr. Pepper submitted an amendment to the same bill to increase agricultural chemical investigations from \$407,500 to \$427,500 and increasing the amount of this appropriation which can be spent for the Citrus Products Laboratory in Florida from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Began debate on S. 685, to create a Division of Water Pollution Control in the Public Health Service.

Received a supplemental estimate of appropriation of \$300,000 for agricultural extension work, 1940 (S. Doc. 69); to Com. on Appropriations.

The Committee on Commerce reported S. 1100, for completion of the Atlantic-Gulf ship canal across Florida.

Adjourned until May 1.

House                      Agreed to the conference report on H. R. 4492, Treasury-Post Office appropriation bill. The Senate amendment relating to purchase of cotton twine was amended to provide that 3/4 of the twine used in post offices be made of cotton

and was agreed to. The Senate amendment denying the franking privilege to Government publications the sending of which has not been requested and is not required by law was amended and agreed to.

The Committee on Public Lands reported the following bills: H. R. 2415, to authorize addition of lands to Plumas National Forest, Calif., with amendment (H. Rept. 510); H. R. 4635, to transfer lands from the Sierra National Forest to the Yosemite National Park (H. Rept. 519); H. R. 5435, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (H. Rept. 522).

Adjourned until May 1.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

**Blue Ribbon Watermelon** Blue Ribbon, a wilt-resistant striped watermelon on the College of Agriculture campus at Davis, will be released to seed companies and farmers during October, 1939, according to G. N. Davis, instructor in truck crops at the college. The new melon possesses the same wilt-resistant qualities as the Klondike R7, and the same stripe as the Klondike No. 11. It is expected to fill an important need for, while demand for striped watermelons has been steady, wilt has caused such heavy losses that farmers have been forced to reduce their acreages of the striped varieties. (California Cultivator, April 22.)

**4-H Club High Record** Four-H Club enrollment reached a new high in 1938, with 1,286,029 boys and girls listed as members in 74,594 local 4-H clubs, Dr. C. W. Warburton, director of extension work in the United States Department of Agriculture, announced recently. More than a half million of these boys and girls became club members for the first time last year. This brings to approximately 7,500,000 the total number of young people who have received 4-H training since the work became nation-wide in 1914. So widespread have 4-H clubs become in the past twenty-five years that more than 40 per cent of the rural boys and girls reaching the average age for joining 4-H clubs last year were enrolled in the organization. In 1938 three-fourths of all farm and home projects undertaken by club members were completed--another record high. (New York Times.)

**Canadian Tax Removed** Removal of the 3 percent excise tax from a long list of goods which Canada obtains mostly from the United States has been announced by Canadian Finance Minister Charles Dunning. The new trade treaty between Canada and the United States eliminated Canada's 3 percent excise tax from a large number of imports, for the most part finished goods. Canadian manufacturers complained that the tax still was levied on many of the parts and raw materials they had to import. It has now been removed from all imports which receive preferential tariff treatment, a concession worth about \$12,000,000 to American exporters. (New York Times.)

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 22

Section 1

May 2, 1939

**URGES TRADE PROMOTION** "An appeal to business men of the United States to employ the practical commercial methods available to avert war and consequent collapse of economic order was made last night by Thomas J. Watson, president of the International Chamber of Commerce, to a group of business leaders gathered from all parts of the country," reports Turner Catledge in the New York Times. "The industrialists of this country are definite in their determination to avert war, Mr. Watson said, because it would mean the destruction of the very system under which they live, whoever might win. He maintained that the surest way to avoid armed conflict was to keep goods and service moving 'both ways' across international borders...As practical steps toward moving goods 'both ways' across international borders, Mr. Watson proposed stabilization of currencies 'on a basis fair to all countries,' limitation of armaments and 'a fair adjustment of international trade barriers'..."

**U.S. SALES TO BRAZIL** The Commerce Department said yesterday that the United States outranked Germany in 1938 as a seller of merchandise to Brazil, after allowance for the depreciated value of Germany's askimarks. Based on the reichsmark value of German sales to Brazil, Germany outranked the United States last year and for the past several years, but officials said that Brazil pays for purchases from Germany with askimarks, which are cheaper than reichsmarks. United States shipments to Brazil last year totaled \$71,508,372, equal to 24.21 percent of all the foreign merchandise bought by Brazil. Germany's sales, on the askimark basis, were valued at \$61,179,288, or on a reichsmark basis at \$73,808,784. Great Britain ranked third in sales to Brazil. (Washington Post.)

**COTTON USE PROMOTED** A more general use throughout the Cotton-Belt in 1939 of cotton bagging for cotton bale coverings has been made possible by an amendment to a program inaugurated in August 1938 to encourage the use of cotton for this purpose, the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements of the Department announces. Under the terms of the original program, cotton bagging at a special low cost was offered only for the packaging of one-variety and improved cotton. The change in the program makes the offer apply to all cotton. The program is one of those designed to stimulate consumption of cotton by encouraging new uses.

Foreign Plant Introduction "Speaking before the members of the Florida Horticultural Society the other day, Dr. David Fairchild, the great plant explorer, complained that after forty years devoted to introducing foreign plants to this country he had come to the conclusion that while it was easy to grow them here, the main difficulty is in getting people to eat them," says an editorial in the New York Herald Tribune (April 21). "In his years as head of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Fairchild and his associates did a marvelous job in overcoming the reluctance of the American to experiment with foreign plants. Much more remains to be done. . . Among Dr. Fairchild's victories over American apathy may be listed the Feterita sorghum from the Sudan, an important grain and forage crop grown in the West today; the Persian Gulf dates, which he brought from Bagdad; the tung oil tree, which came from China, and the Oriental bamboo, of which there are many groves in this country. These are only a beginning of what could be done."

Bread in the Diet An editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association (April 15) on the nutritive value of wheat flour and bread, says in part: "A recent report of Copping (Copping, A.M.: Nutrition Abstr. & Rev. 8:555 (Jan.) 1939) reviews the present status of our knowledge of the problem. Although bread is an important food, it is by no means a complete foodstuff. It consists essentially of flour and water, charged with carbon dioxide as a result of action of leavening agents, and baked. Its nutritive value depends principally on the flour used in its preparation. There is considerable variation in the nutritive value of flour. The process of milling wheat does not seriously affect the protein or the carbohydrate content of the flour, but it does appreciably reduce the amount of fat and ash present. Only about 70 percent of the screened wheat is recovered in the preparation of standard grade white flour. By further milling finer flours are obtained and in these cases the extraction is even less. . . Although wheat flour is practically devoid of vitamin D and vitamin C and ordinarily possesses but an insignificant amount of provitamin A, its content of the B group of water-soluble vitamins is not inconsiderable. An examination of white wheat bread, however, reveals that it contains only about one fourth to one sixth as much thiamin (vitamin  $B_1$ ) as whole wheat bread. Investigation has also shown that bread prepared from whole wheat flour contains a larger percentage of the vitamin B complex than that prepared from white flour. Whole wheat grain contains an appreciable amount of provitamin A, carotene, but since this constituent imparts to the flour a yellow color which is considered undesirable, bleaching agents are often used which destroy the color as well as a large percentage of the carotene. The germ of wheat has important nutritive properties. Rejection of wheat germ in the process of milling involves loss of an important source of these factors. Although little is known of the human requirement for these accessory food factors found in wheat germ, it seems probable, in the light of animal experimentation, that they are important for the nutrition of man."

Standards  
for Child's  
Clothes

Hit or miss--mostly miss--methods of sizing children's clothing could be improved by manufacturers if sizes were based on body measurements instead of age, Miss Ruth O'Brien, chief of the textiles and clothing division of the Bureau of Home Economics, told the American Standards Association, recently. Mothers don't want to return ill-fitting children's clothing any more than merchants want to see enormous returns--estimated by retail merchants at more than \$10,000,000 a year. For this reason, the American Home Economics Association requested a standardization of sizes of children's clothing and patterns. Under the direction of Miss O'Brien and financed by the Works Progress Administration, a nation-wide survey was made to determine the simplest and most accurate method of size standardization for children's garments. Any one of three groups of two measurements were suggested by Miss O'Brien. They are height and weight, height and girth of hips, or height and girth of chest. In this way children's clothing can be purchased by measurements. Each of the two measurements most nearly correlate 36 body measurements made of about 150,000 children in 15 States and the District of Columbia. The children's ages ranged from 4 to 17 years. Analysis of the measurement figures show definitely that age is a poor indicator of size. "For instance," Miss O'Brien declared, "one of our measurement size groups may be for boys weighing from 81 to 91 pounds and 58 to 60 inches in height. We found boys ranging from 9 to 14 years of age falling into this group. Furthermore, we found that manufacturers were correct in their assumption that children in the West were larger for their age than those in other sections. In Texas and California they were larger and in two Southern States they were smaller. In all areas children of different economic levels were measured. Those children from more prosperous homes were consistently larger." Dr. P. G. Agnew, secretary of the American Standards Association, called in the Sectional Committee made up of pattern manufacturers, garment manufacturers, retailers, consumers, and technical experts to hear Miss O'Brien's report on the survey. The Committee will discuss the establishment of an American Standard for children's garment and pattern sizes based on this study of body measurements.

Family Income  
Publications

Miscellaneous Publication No. 339--Family Income and Expenditures: Pacific Region, Part I, Family Income--is the first in a series of studies of urban and village families, prepared by the Bureau of Home Economics. Data were obtained in the Consumer Purchases Study, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Works Progress Administration. Reports for other regions will be released later. A similar series will deal with farm incomes. Part II will tell how these incomes are spent. M.P. 339 may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents for 35 cents.

Controlled Hunting Area "Wood county, Ohio, has worked out a plan that provides good pheasant shooting for thousands each year," says George A. Montgomery, author of "Game Plan That Works", in Capper's Farmer (May). "This army of hunters is estimated by local residents at 10,000 to 15,000. A. B. Meagley, county game warden, places the number at 12,000. The Ohio Wild Life Research Station, maintained cooperatively by Ohio State University, the Ohio Conservation Commission and the United States Biological Survey, in a study made in 1937, accounted for 8,406. Of these, 3,366 were farmer-land owners and 2,440 were Wood county hunters of other occupations. That gives nearly 6,000 resident hunters, approximately 10 to the square mile. That alone is a heavy hunting population, but, in addition, 1,600 outsiders bought hunting permits from game protective associations and approximately 1,000 others visited friends or relatives and hunted on their land during the open season. Hunters included in the survey killed 40,180 cock pheasants during a 10-day hunting season. That is an average of 66 for each section of land in the county. The law does not permit hens to be shot and prosecution of violators and denial of future hunting privileges are so certain that few hunters risk firing at anything but a cock pheasant. What has made this county one of the best shooting areas in the United States? Two things, residents of the county will tell you: The Wood county pheasant refuge management system, and controlled hunting areas. . . ."

Electrified Farm Exhibit Farmers visiting the New York World's Fair will see a practical working farm, with a farm house and buildings, completely equipped with cattle, horses, chickens and everything one would expect to find on a farm, even to the flower and vegetable garden near the house—all on less than one acre. More than one hundred practical applications of electricity will be shown under working conditions. The house is an attractive two-story frame structure. At one end of the plot, are the silo and barn, with a bull exercise at one corner of the barn, the milking parlor, dairy room, workshop and horse shed; at the other end of the plot, the poultry house, brooder house, greenhouse, hotbeds, community packing house and the orchard. The outstanding feature of the farm house kitchen is its two-compartment refrigerator—one compartment for quick freezing. This refrigerator is divided into two sections of approximately 12 cubic feet each. On one side the temperature is held at zero for freezing and holding meats, poultry, fruits and vegetable; on the other side the regular refrigerator temperature of below 50 degrees is maintained. (The American Produce Review, April 26.)

Livestock Trucking More than 25,000,000 head of farm animals were shipped to the sixteen principal livestock markets by other than rail transportation in 1938. The number was slightly more than 54 per cent of the total receipts at such markets. This percentage was the highest on record with the exception of 1936. Actual numbers of non-rail receipts at the same markets in 1936 and in 1933 and 1934 were above those of 1938. (Country Gentleman, May.)

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 23

Section 1

May 3, 1939

**CIVIL SERVICE** Alarmed over two bills reported favorably on Monday  
**LEGISLATION** by the Senate Civil Service Committee, the Civil Service Commission yesterday warned that they "opened the back door" to a flood of patronage-appointed Congressional clerks taking their places in permanent jobs in the executive service. One of the measures would permit Senators' and Representatives' clerks and secretaries and clerks of Congressional committees who have served four years, to receive permanent civil service classification, making them eligible for appointment to civil service jobs. The other bill denies the commission the right of setting age limits for persons examined for jobs, except those entailing hazardous or heavy physical work. The commission submitted an unfavorable report, with Budget approval, on both bills. (Washington Post.)

**WHEAT MARKET** The value of wheat was 10 percent higher yesterday than  
**INCREASES** a week ago, the sharpest rise in the grain market in almost a year. Within a week blackboard quotations on the Chicago Board of Trade have been chalked up 7 cents to the highest level since early last summer, when the market was on its way down from the 9-year top established in 1937. The price bulge put values 7 to 15 cents above the 5-year lows reached earlier in the season. Yesterday's closings were: May, 75-74 7/8; July, 73-72 7/8; September, 73 1/4-73. (A.P.).

**NATIONAL** Movies in sound with natural color, showing spectacular  
**PARK MOVIES** views in America's western National Parks, will be sponsored by the National Park Service at 8 o'clock this evening in the departmental auditorium, Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets (Washington). The pictures are professionally filmed. There is no admission charge. (Washington Post.)

**MD. TOBACCO** Maryland-grown tobacco is selling for 45 percent more  
**PRICE UP** than the crop marketed last year commanded, says a report in the Baltimore Sun. If prices hold steady at present levels, growers in five southern Maryland counties will receive \$2,500,000 more than they were paid for the crop marketed in 1938. The peak price to date for tobacco sold by local commission merchants, the Maryland Tobacco Growers Association and the two auction houses at Upper Marlboro and Hughesville is 40 cents a pound.

May 3, 1939

"Starter" American Fertilizer (April 15) reprints from Farm  
Solution for Research (April 1) an article, "A 'Starter' Solution for  
Tomatoes Tomatoes," by Charles B. Sayre, New York Experiment Sta-  
tion. "In a field experiment with cannery tomatoes made  
at Geneva in 1938," he says, "the application of some chemical ferti-  
lizers costing only 48 cents produced a gain of 1.44 tons of early toma-  
toes and increased the total yield 1.85 tons per acre over the checks.  
The chemicals were dissolved in water and applied at the time the plants  
were transplanted to the field. The results of this special treatment  
were so outstanding that the method is recommended to tomato growers....  
Treatment A, which consisted of 20 ounces of ammo-phos 11-48 (11 per  
cent nitrogen and 48 per cent phosphoric acid) plus 10 ounces of nitrate  
of potash (13 per cent nitrogen and 44 per cent potash) per 50 gallons  
of water, produced significantly higher early yields of tomatoes than any  
of the other treatments and.....this increased early crop resulted in  
the largest total yield. Treatment B, consisting of 10 ounces of ammo-  
phos 11-48 plus 10 ounces of calnitro (20 per cent nitrogen) plus 10  
ounces of nitrate of potash supplied the same amount of potash as treat-  
ment A and slightly more nitrogen, but only half as much phosphoric acid.  
Since treatment A produced significantly larger early and total yields  
than treatment B, it is clearly evident that the larger amount of avail-  
able phosphoric acid as supplied by more ammo-phos 11-48 in treatment A  
was the principal factor stimulating earlier and greater yields of toma-  
toes....It should be emphasized that this nutrient 'starter' solution is  
only a supplementary treatment to be used in transplanting tomatoes and  
is not recommended as the sole fertilizer application needed to produce  
a large crop of tomatoes. It should be regarded primarily as a 'booster'  
or 'quick starter' to be applied at a critical time in the life cycle of  
the tomato plant. To carry the vines through the season to produce a  
heavy yield of tomatoes requires liberal application of fertilizer to the  
field. The 'starter' solution is likely to be most effective with can-  
nery tomatoes...."

Fertilizer  
Placement

The American Potato Journal (April) contains an  
article on placement of fertilizers for potatoes, by  
Messrs. Brown, Zimmerley, Houghland, Redit and Schoen-  
leber of the Department, and says in part in an editorial: "More work  
needs to be done in connection with fertilizer usage on the potato crop.  
This is apparent from the report by Brown et al in this issue of the  
Journal. These workers present results which indicate that it may not  
be desirable to apply all the ingredients in a potato fertilizer as a  
complete mixture but rather to vary the location of the different in-  
gredients. Their results show that the divided placement averaged 27.5  
bushels more than where the ingredients were mixed and applied together.  
This is an interesting development and should be followed up, since if  
further experimentation should confirm these findings, it would mean  
still larger returns on the fertilizer investment."

## FSA Aids

## Alabama

"At the depth of the depression, Alabama was faced with a rural relief problem of serious proportions," says an editorial in the Birmingham News (April 6). "Under the Alabama Rehabilitation Corporation, a beginning was made in developing a system of permanently rehabilitating these farm families. This objective was continued under the Resettlement Administration, and, with modifications, is still being carried out under the Farm Security Administration. Last year there were almost 19,000 farm families in the state who were borrowing money from the FSA and receiving technical advice and direction in carrying on successful farming operations. The average net worth of 12,000 low-income families who were accepted on the program in 1935 was \$3.03. The average net worth of families on the program in 1938 had increased to \$442. At present 99 per cent of these families own their own mules; 85 per cent have cows; and 99 per cent have chickens... These are concrete evidences of the improvement in living standards that have been made. The cost of this program, which combines sound credit and educational assistance, is extremely low in comparison to the benefits that have been gained. The success of the program has proved conclusively that it is possible to develop a credit system and a live-at-home program which can provide a measure of security for the low-income farmers of the South."

History  
of B.A.I.

In response to a request recently received from an official of the National Archives, the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry has presented that branch of the government with copy of the bound volume, "The Bureau of Animal Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Its Establishment, Achievements, and Current Activities," prepared in 1924 by the late Dr. U. G. Houck and other members of the Bureau's staff. This book, of 390 pages, is the most comprehensive existing account of the first 40 years of B.A.I. achievements. The reserve supply of the book has been exhausted for several years and copies now held privately are expected to become increasingly rare with the passing of time. Presentation of the book to the National Archives insures that the valuable information contained will be available to posterity. (Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, May.)

Pump for  
Silage

New in silage machinery is a molasses pump that is hitched up to the top feed roll of the silage cutter.

When crops go into the cutter, the roll raises and trips the molasses release. Molasses then flows onto the material which is to be cut for silage. When no feed is going in, the top feed roll drops and cuts off the molasses. This pump also works satisfactorily with phosphoric acid, which is now on the market in lined steel drums (15 gallons, 30 gallons), for use in making legume and grass silage. (Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife, May.)

Senate May 1 Passed S. 685, to create a Division of Water Pollution Control in the Public Health Service.

Agreed to the conference report on H. R. 4492, Treasury-Post Office appropriation bill. Concurred in the House amendment to the cotton-twine amendment, which provides that 1/4 of the twine used in post offices shall be made of cotton; and the House clarifying amendment to the amendment denying the franking privilege to Government publications the sending of which has not been requested and is not required by law. This bill will now be sent to the President.

Mr. Murray submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to H. R. 5269, agricultural appropriation bill, to appropriate \$2,417,000 additional (1939) for control of insect pests and plant diseases.

The Committee on Civil Service reported with amendment the following: S. 1904, eliminating age requirements for certain positions in the classified civil service (S. Rept. 341); S. 1730, to permit certain employees of the legislative branch to be transferred to the competitive classified civil service (S. Rept. 343).

Received from the Secretary of State a proposal to authorize creation of advisory committees which may prove essential to fulfillment of legislation to authorize cooperation with other American republics; to Com. on Foreign Relations.

House May 1 Considering bills on the calendar, passed the following: H. R. 169, to facilitate control of soil erosion and/or flood damage originating on Cleveland National Forest lands, Calif.; H. R. 2009, to facilitate control of soil erosion and/or flood damage on Angeles National Forest lands, Calif.; H. R. 2417, to facilitate control of soil erosion and/or flood damage on Sequoia National Forest lands, Calif.; H. J. Res. 171, authorizing acceptance from Alameda, Calif., of certain lands on Government Island for use of Forest Service and Bureau of Public Roads; H. Res. 176, directing Secretary of Agriculture to transmit to the House "such pertinent data and information as the Department...may have assembled relative to...crop insurance for cotton."

Agreed to conference report on H. R. 4852, Interior Department appropriation bill.

The Committee on Agriculture reported with amendment S. 1569, to amend the A. A. Act by extending to 1940 and 1941 certain provisions regarding minimum cotton acreage allotments (H. Rept. 524).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Vegetable Situation Rail shipments of truck crops are approaching their seasonal peak, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Market prices are holding at about March levels, and are generally higher than in April 1938. Total acreage and production of truck crops reported to date are slightly lower than in 1938, yields in most cases being below those of last year. Although truck crop prices at market centers in mid-April were generally unchanged from those of a month earlier, beets, cabbage, carrots, celery, kale, lettuce, onions and tomatoes advanced slightly in contrast to declines in all others.

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 24

Section 1

May 4, 1939

**HOUSE PASSES REORGANIZATION** The House yesterday overwhelmingly approved President Roosevelt's first reorganization proposal (see Daily Digest, April 26, page 1) as incorporated in a bill. The vote was 264 to 128 against a resolution by Representative Taber of New York, to reject the measure. Under the law, the Presidential order will go into effect on June 25, or 60 days after it was submitted to Congress. No other attempt can be made in either branch of Congress to nullify the order. (New York Times.)

**HULL OPPOSES STATE TOLLS** Secretary Hull expressed yesterday the concern of the federal government over restrictions imposed on the movement of goods from one state to another. In a letter to William F. Eirick of the Ohio House of Representatives, Secretary Hull stated the administration's opposition to barriers such as toll points and use taxes imposed by some states in recent months. "The ability of goods to move freely from one state to another, whatever their origin," Mr. Hull declared, "has been one of the most important factors in the development of our country and the high standard of efficiency which we have achieved in many branches of industry and agriculture..." (A.P.).

**RAILROAD LAND GRANT PLAN** A proposal that the railroads holding federal land grants relinquish these in exchange for surrender by the government of the right to preferential tariffs under those grants has been made to the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, which is studying the problem of railroad relief, by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace. The Secretary, in a letter dated April 28, set forth this proposition as one in which the railroads would receive a substantial return for the surrender of rights which he termed "relatively small and of nebulous value." In effect, Mr. Wallace wrote, the railroads would give up about 20,000,000 acres of low-grade land in exchange for additional revenue of about \$7,000,000 a year, which, Mr. Wallace, said represents a capital value of \$175,000,000. (New York Times.)

**EXTENSION WORK** At least 1,800 meetings of farm people will be held over the country on or near May 8 in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever act which created nationwide cooperative extension work of the Department and land-grant colleges, wires from 47 states to Dr. C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension Work, reveal.

May 4, 1939

Trends  
in Diet

"Important shifts are taking place in our national diet," says an editorial in *Better Crops with Plant Food*, (April). "Among such changes is an increase in the consumption of citrus fruit. According to O. E. Baker and A. B. Genung of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in *Miscellaneous Publication No. 267, 'A Graphic Summary of Farm Crops,'* March 1938, the consumption of citrus has increased from about 10 pounds annually at the beginning of the century to more than 40 pounds, on the average, during the last 5 years. This is in comparison with a per capita consumption of about 60 pounds of apples during the last decade, which is a decrease from between 70 to 120 pounds a year during the pre-war years. Consumption of grapes and prunes has increased, while the per capita consumption of peaches has remained more or less stationary. We are eating a lot more lettuce, spinach, and other green leafy vegetables. The authors estimate that between 1920 and 1930 there was an increase of 350 per cent in carlot lettuce shipments and a 240 per cent increase in the shipments of spinach. Carlot shipments of carrots increased 670 per cent during the decade; string beans 540 per cent; celery 180 per cent; cauliflower 160 per cent; cabbage 9 per cent... While this is a move in the right direction, it is still doubtless true that the population as a whole does not yet eat enough citrus, apples, fruits in general, or green leafy vegetables. In line with this shift in the national diet, more and more attention by agricultural authorities all over the country is being given to the economical production of quality fruits and vegetables. Many states now maintain experiment stations, with highly trained staffs, devoted exclusively to vegetable and fruit production. Prominent among such problems is the proper nutrition of vegetable and fruit crops. On all too many soils plant evidences of nutrient deficiencies are being noted in the crops grown. Such deficiency symptoms include potassium, phosphorus, boron, manganese, iron, zinc, copper and magnesium. But as a result of patient experimental and research work, the nutrition of crops is becoming much better understood. Fundamental to the health and well-being of the nation is the research of highly specialized truck and fruit stations all over the country."

Civil Service Examinations

The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 46 (unassembled) Auditor (Marine Accounts), \$3,200; United States Maritime Commission. (For existing vacancies the Maritime Commission needs auditors with responsible experience in voyage accounting.) No. 44 (assembled) Forestry Student Aid, \$1,260; Forest Service. Applications must be on file not later than (a) auditor, May 29, forestry student aid, May 22, if received from States other than those named in (b), (b) auditor, June 1, forestry student aid, May 25, if received from the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Milk Sugar  
From Whey

Scientists of the Bureau of Dairy Industry have developed a new process for separating cheese whey powder into three valuable products -- milk sugar, a protein-rich concentrate, and a solution rich in riboflavin or vitamin G ( $B_2$ ). Milk sugar is already manufactured for use in medicinal preparations and baby foods, and it can be used in candy and for making explosives. Its high cost compared to other sugars, however, prevents its use in many ways for which it is chemically adapted. Abraham Leviton, the Bureau chemist who developed the process in the laboratory, believes the cost of producing milk sugar can be reduced materially by using his alcohol-extraction method. In the laboratory, he recovered from the whey 70 to 75 percent of the milk sugar, which was comparable in quality to the refined milk sugar of commerce. Reducing the cost of milk sugar, he believes, will open up new fields for its utilization. Mr. Leviton says the whey powder is wet thoroughly in 95-percent alcohol. The light paste is then introduced into more alcohol, agitated, and filtered as rapidly as possible. The residue is the protein concentrate. The filtrate contains the lactose, or milk sugar, in a supersaturated solution. It is treated with hydrochloric acid and lactose crystals are introduced to start crystallization. When crystallization is almost complete the lactose is filtered out and washed in alcohol. The residue is then distilled to recover the alcohol. The vitamin concentrate which is high in riboflavin content is left. The riboflavin concentrate may be used for poultry feeds, as this vitamin is essential in the growth of young chicks and the hatchability of eggs. By using the new product the vitamin would be available in concentrated form.

Department  
Cotton  
Studies

A comprehensive study of the methods and costs of packaging and compressing cotton in the United States has been inaugurated by the Department. Improved appearance of American cotton bales, better protection against loss and deterioration, elimination of fiber damage, and lower costs in packaging are sought. The study has been undertaken by the Bureaus of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Engineering. The increasing competition American cotton is meeting in world markets, it was stated, has emphasized the need for improved cotton packaging and handling practices in this country. The gin bale package in general use by producers and ginners in this country is unsatisfactory not only from the standpoint of its extreme bulkiness but also because it fails to protect the cotton against damage and waste. Furthermore, observations indicate present methods of recompressing the bales to higher density may damage the fiber. An attempt will be made to ascertain the factors responsible for fiber damage in compression. The Bureaus also will seek to develop means to eliminate compression damage, to determine costs and advantages or disadvantages of high-density packaging at gins as compared with present methods, and to deliver a more satisfactory bale package to spinners.

May 4, 1939

Senate Agreed to House amendments to certain Senate amendments to H. R. 4852, Interior Department appropriation bill. This bill will now be sent to the President.  
May 2

The Committee on Commerce reported with amendments H. R. 5762, to postpone the effective date for the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (S. Rept. 356).

Adjourned until May 4.

House Received from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture information prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on cotton-crop insurance (H.Doc. 277).  
May 2

Received from the Secretary of the Treasury a proposed amendment to the Government Losses in Shipment Act; to Com. on Expenditures in Executive Departments.

The Select Committee on Government Organization reported adversely H. Con. Res. 19, opposing the No. I plan for reorganization (H. Rept. 531). (Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

**AAA Range Program** The AAA range improvement program, already popular with Oregon ranchers, will be strengthened even more for the future, according to reports brought back by Oregon delegates to a regional range conference held at Tuscon, Arizona. Indications are that more range practices will be added to the program. Approximately 1400 Oregon ranches, representing more than five million acres of range lands, are now enrolled under the federal range program. Principal aims of the program include rebuilding of depleted grazing lands and conservation developments which will help retain their value for the future. (Lake County, Oreg., Examiner, March 23.)

Challenge of Science At the Southwestern Section meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science recently at Sul Ross Teachers College, Alpine, Texas, Dr. H. W. Morelock, president of the college, stressed the value of pure research that is motivated by no material gains. "As scientists," Dr. Morelock said, "you have at least three challenging obligations, one to society, another to yourself; and the third to pure science....It is regrettable that the commercially selfish too often would have you devote your time and intelligence to destructive rather than constructive ends, provided a profit comes out of the precipitate. During recent months I was astounded to learn that it costs industry in America \$200,000,000 annually to maintain its research laboratories, and also that it employs 30,000 research workers; but that, on the other hand, Germany employs 70,000 and Soviet Russia 100,000 for the same purpose. But the most startling thing I learned was that two-thirds of industrial research activity is aimed at either improving existing products or reducing their cost of production, and that the purpose of the industrial research and its budget were answerable to tangible results." (New York Times.)

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 25

Section 1

May 5, 1939

**U.S.-BRITISH  
BARTER TALKS** "Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told the House of Commons yesterday that the British Government had agreed to open negotiations with the United States for bartering American wheat and cotton for British Empire rubber and tin," reports Ferdinand Kuhn, Jr., in a London wireless to the New York Times. "The announcement meant that the British Government had at least accepted the principle of such a transaction, which--if it goes through--will assure the United States for the first time of ample war reserves of two essential raw materials not produced within the American frontiers. In addition, it will relieve the United States Government of some of the huge surpluses now on its hands and at the same time will give Britain large quantities of reserves..."

**APPROPRIATION  
BILL ACTION** A \$378,000,000 increase in farm appropriations was approved yesterday by a Senate subcommittee. Chairman Russell of the Senate group said this amount had been added to the \$835,000,000 voted by the House more than a month ago. Senator Russell said the Senate group approved a \$225,000,000 increase for "parity payments," \$113,000,000 additional for the administration's farm surplus removal program, \$25,000,000 additional for the farm tenancy act and \$15,000,000 for other Agriculture Department activities. Senator Russell said the full Senate Appropriations Committee would meet today to consider these increases which the subcommittee voted after weeks of hearings. (A.P.).

**FOODS UNDER  
STAMP PLAN** Eight foods were designated yesterday by Secretary Wallace as surplus agricultural commodities which may be included by the Surplus Commodities Corporation on the list of commodities obtainable under the recently announced stamp plan. The foods designated were butter, shell eggs, dry edible beans, dried prunes, oranges, wheat flour, whole wheat flour and corn meal. (Press.)

**DRUG ACT  
DELAY** The Senate passed yesterday, among a long list of bills on its calendar, a House measure to postpone until January 1, 1940, or longer, the effective date of a large number of provisions of the new food, drug and cosmetic act which otherwise would have become effective on June 25, one year after the date of final passage of the act. The Senate inserted an amendment setting July 1, 1940, as the ultimate extension period, which makes necessary return of the bill to the House either for agreement with the Senate amendment or the appointment of conferees. (New York Times.)

May 5, 1939

FSA Work  
Praised

"Many New Deal activities are making good headway toward effecting a permanent cure while easing the suffering of victims of economic disease," says an editorial in the Southern Agriculturist (May). "Outstanding in this respect is the work of the Farm Security Administration, the federal agency responsible for the Tenant Purchase Program and the work of rehabilitating farm families that cannot secure aid elsewhere. A fine record has already been made in starting thousands of helpless, destitute farm families on a self-sustaining program, and it is assisting worthy, qualified tenants in buying farms in a practical business-like manner. As the Farm Security Administration is being operated at present, there is no doubt that farmers selected to take part in its program are getting well-located, productive land in tracts large enough and at prices low enough to enable them to make a living and meet their financial obligations. They are getting well-constructed, modern, modest, comfortable homes and outbuildings suited to their needs at most reasonable prices. They are getting adequate financial aid on long-time terms and very low interest rates to meet actual legitimate needs in getting back on their feet. They have first-hand assistance from well-trained supervisors in making and executing farm and home plans. Probably the most important step that could be taken just now for further improvement in the program would be for Washington to give state and county representatives more leeway for exercise of judgment and initiative and to provide more field workers to aid in planning and supervising the work of FSA families."

The Progressive Farmer (May) contains the first of several short articles on the work of the FSA in rehabilitating farmers.

Farm Building  
Inspection

Every home to be inspected for fire hazards is the goal of fire prevention authorities. Farm homes are no exception, says Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, in urging farm folk to check their homes against the known causes of fire. He points out that of the known causes, these eight are responsible for almost 85 per cent of all farm fire losses: Defective chimneys and flues; sparks on combustible roofs; lightning; spontaneous combustion; careless use of matches; smoking; careless use of gasoline and kerosene; defective and improperly installed stoves and furnaces; faulty wiring and misuse of electric appliances. Fire loss on farms amounted to approximately \$90,000,000 and 3,500 lives in 1937, or practically one-third of the fire loss for the entire United States. A remedy for farm fire loss is inspection of homes and other farm buildings to detect fire hazards. Secretary Wallace urges volunteer firemen, Boys' and Girls' 4-H Clubs, Rural Boy Scouts, and farmers themselves to cooperate in inspecting buildings and in removing the fire hazards found. (International Fire Fighter, May.)

Protein in  
Lespedeza

"A way to double the yield of protein from an acre of lespedeza has been found," says W. A. Albrecht, Missouri College of Agriculture, in Capper's Farmer (May).

"It involves two common treatments, liming and phosphating. The discovery was made when Missouri research workers began to combine different fertilizer treatments after having determined their effects when applied singly. On the level prairie type of Putnam silt loam, superphosphate was used both alone and in conjunction with limestone. The clearly visible differences in lespedeza growth and the extent to which grasses and other foreign plants were smothered prompted not only careful measure of the crop stand and yield, but also a chemical study of the crop. Where no treatment was applied the hay was only 762 pounds an acre. Phosphate alone gave 889 pounds, or 16 per cent increase, but when limestone and phosphate were combined the hay yield mounted to 1394 pounds, an increase of 83 per cent, and almost five times the weight increase from phosphate. Yield figures alone fail to tell the complete story. Phosphorus in the lespedeza given phosphate was 24 per cent larger than that in the untreated crop. Combination treatment increased the phosphorus content by 76 per cent. Lime gave the crop capacity to take more than three times as much of this essential element. Such results suggest that if the phosphate investment is to be returned with profit in form of increased phosphorus taken into a crop like lespedeza, we may well look to the limestone level of the soil. . . ."

Worm-Free  
Sweet Corn

"During the past five years results at the Kentucky Experiment Station showed that clipping the silks and end of the corn husk beyond the cob, just after pollination, was a promising method for control of the earworm," says E. M. Emmert, University of Kentucky, in Country Gentleman (May). "The test was repeated on a larger scale last year and the results substantiate the earlier findings. They indicate that clipping four to six days after pollination is complete, as evidenced by browning of the silks, is a method by which the percentage of wormy ears can be materially reduced even when the population of worms is high. Of 740 ears clipped four to six days after pollination, 85 per cent were free of worms, while of 350 unclipped ears only 24.5 per cent were worm free. Earlier or later clippings were not so effective. The worms and eggs in the clipped ears should be collected and destroyed by burying below six inches, drowning in water, burning, or treating with a strong chemical."

Beeswax  
for Boxes

"A new market for beeswax has been opened up by a paper company in Kansas, with its development of a new waterproof cardboard box having corrugations of asphalt and an inside coating of wax," says the American Bee Journal (May). "Large quantities of beeswax are being used on thousands of cartons for use in shipping flowers, certain types of meats, celery and other products. This type of wax can be applied very evenly, it has exceptional waterproofing qualities and it does not rub or scrape off easily. . . ."

House

May 3

The Committee on Civil Service reported with amendment H. R. 960, extending the classified executive civil service (H. Rept. 534).

The Committee on Agriculture reported H. R. 5625, coffee seed bill, with amendment (H. Rept. 538).

The Senate was not in session. Next meeting, May 4.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Ranching  
Studies

Economic ills of many ranchers are due in large part to overcapitalization of ranch property, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said in a report on studies of ranch operations in Montana. The report, prepared by Marion Clawson of the Bureau, suggests that ranchers use a long-time average of livestock prices and the long-time earning power of ranch properties in determining land values. "And 'long-time' means more than the average of the past 3 or 5 years," the report adds. Ranch property changes hands more often in periods of high prices for livestock than in periods of low prices, it was pointed out, and in times of high prices property often sells for "more than its long-time earning power will warrant." Land costs and interest charges not unreasonable in times of high prices were said to become impossible to meet when prices are low. The Bureau's findings include a review of conditions existing in both cattle and sheep production. They point out to ranchers, loan agencies, and public land administrators the need for basing land values and land income upon the average of livestock prices over a considerable period. Specifically, for ranchers they indicate the need for reducing indebtedness or building up reserves in years of high income as a means of reducing financial risks in years of less profitable operations or loss. "The rancher's income," the Bureau said, "is dominated by price changes beyond his control." The reference is to income not only from land but to income of the rancher as worker and as capitalist with an investment in cattle or sheep as well as in the properties used in his operations. The rancher can, however, "minimize the inconvenience from years of less-than-average income" by taking maximum advantage of the higher-than-average income from more favorable years. (The Cattlemen, May).

Plant Breeder  
Honored

Dr. Donald F. Jones, chief geneticist at the Connecticut Experiment Station at New Haven, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Starred in American Men of Science as one of the outstanding scientists in his field, Dr. Jones is known to the public as the man who showed farmers how to produce hybrid corn. His method, based on the principles of inbreeding and crossing, was first described for commercial use in 1918. It is now the basis of a million-dollar industry in the United States and is used in all maize-growing countries in the world.

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 26

Section 1

May 8, 1939

**WINTER WHEAT  
DAMAGED**

Reports continued to pour into the Kansas City Board of Trade last week indicating that dry weather has been damaging the southwestern winter wheat crop to a point approaching a disaster," says John M. Collins in a report to the New York Times. "While some scattered showers fell they were not sufficient to check deterioration except in the western part of the Oklahoma Panhandle. A considerable acreage of wheat in the Southwest has been ruined beyond repair. The official weekly crop bulletin for Kansas issued in the middle of the week reported a loss in condition for the Kansas crop..."

**FERTILIZER**

**RATE INCREASE** The Interstate Commerce Commission has approved an increase of 5 1/2 percent in the present railroad freight rates on fertilizer and fertilizer materials between points in the North and South. The railroads had asked authority for an increase of 10 percent, the commission answering, however, that this was not justified. More than 60 percent of the fertilizer used in this country in 1937 was consumed in the South and 30 percent in official territory (east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers) so that 90 percent of the entire consumption will be affected by the increase, Commissioner W. E. Lee contended.

**MICHIGAN**

**FOREST FIRES** More than 2,000 persons were combating the worst forest fire in Michigan in many years last night. Several smaller blazes were also reported. The major fire, centered in Presque Isle State Forest, has burned over more than 40,000 acres. Harold Titus, member of the state conservation commission, said "this was the greatest loss from forest fires in recent Michigan history." He attributed both the major fire and the lesser ones to incendiaryism. (A.P.).

**IMPORTS  
INCREASE**

Improvement in domestic business conditions is ascribed by the Department of Commerce as the explanation of increased United States imports in the first quarter of the year. Imports from 30 of the 45 principal countries increased in value compared with the first quarter of 1938, whereas exports to only 11 countries increased. (New York Times.)

May 8, 1939

Rural Fire Protection "A great many communities have made excellent progress in fire protection, and the subject is of growing interest," says an editorial in the Prairie Farmer (April 22). "In this issue we print an account of the arrangements by which a McLean county, Illinois, community is providing rural fire protection. In many rural sections near towns that maintain fire apparatus, it is possible to arrange for the apparatus to come to the farm in case of fire, a fee of sometimes 50 dollars, sometimes 100 dollars, being charged to cover the expenses of making the run. Prairie Farmer calls attention to the fact that your fire insurance policies on buildings and contents may be made to cover such a charge in case the fire department is called. For a very small additional charge, your insurance agent can add an endorsement to your insurance policies which will provide for payment of such an expense..."

"Under an Illinois law 50 residents of a township can petition a county judge for an election on formation of a fire protection district," says the report of the McLean County fire protection district. "If the election carries, the district is organized with power to levy taxes to buy equipment and maintain a fire department. The people of Mt. Hope and Funk's Grove organized such a district, and bought a new fire truck, consolidated with the McLean department. Today the farmers in this area have ample fire protection for their families and their buildings, not to mention greatly reduced insurance rates. Two tax levies, 2 1/2 mills in 1937 and 1 1/2 mills in 1938, paid for the equipment. Annual maintenance levies will be considerably less..."

Ruritan Clubs "Ruritan is a civic service club patterned after the service organizations of the urban centers, but cut to fit the needs of a rural community," says Marvin L. Gray, President, Ruritan National, in the Southern Planter (May). "Founded at Holland, Virginia, in 1928, it has grown from a mere handful of men at that time to an organization of over 2,500 men with 60 clubs in Virginia, North and South Carolina...Half of the membership of a Ruritan Club is composed of business and professional men of the community, the other half, of men who earn a livelihood tilling the soil. ...Ruritan is interested in anything for the betterment of a community. ...Most Ruritan clubs take a great interest in education. School libraries in many communities have been greatly enlarged through the efforts of the local club...Ruritan is interested in rural electrification and many telephone and power lines in Eastern Virginia are the result of the activities of Ruritan clubs...Ruritan in a few communities has been the medium through which merchants have agreed to reorganize their stores...Public welfare also comes in for consideration of worthy causes in Ruritan clubs...Clinics, free lunches, and medical aid have been rendered school children by some of the clubs. Health units have been organized in several counties. Several clubs have interested themselves in community and home beautification...Cooperative purchasing has been organized in a few clubs..."

**Cotton Quota Regulations** An increase in the penalty rate on excess marketings of cotton, as provided in the Farm Act, is included in the cotton marketing quota regulations for the 1939-40 season, announced by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The regulations provide for collection of a penalty of 3 cents per pound on cotton from this year's crop sold in excess of the farm marketing quota, and 2 cents per pound on excess marketings of penalty cotton carried over from last year. The penalty on all excess marketings last year was 2 cents per pound. The penalty rate for 1939-40 does not apply to cotton carried over by a producer from a previous season and which would not have been subject to penalty if marketed. In the main, the new regulations are similar to those for 1938-39.

**Farm Mortgage Debt Payments** Half a billion dollars of farm mortgage debt held by the Federal land banks and Land Bank Commissioner has been repaid in the last eight years, according to F. F. Hill, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration. This represents both installment payments and loans paid in full. On loans held by the land banks and Commissioner, a total of \$127,410,000 was paid on the principal last year, or 4.5 per cent of the amount of loans outstanding at the beginning of 1938, Hill said. This compares with \$113,893,000 in principal payments in 1937, or 3.9 per cent of the amount outstanding at the beginning of that year. "Farmers as a class are in a better position to make progress in paying their farm mortgage loans than at any time in the past," said Mr. Hill, "since at least 40 per cent of the total farm mortgage debt is now contracted on an amortization basis... The price of farm products is the most important factor in paying off farm debts. But granted reasonable prices, the fact that 40 per cent of the farm mortgage debt is now arranged on systematic repayment schedules should mean considerably more progress in farm debt curtailment during the next decade than has occurred in the past 10 years..."

**Rays Treat Plant Cells** X-rays, now considerably used in bombarding the germ-cells of plants and animals to produce new varieties, may be replaced at least in part by ultraviolet rays, it was stated recently by Dr. Lewis John Stadler, professor of field crops at the University of Missouri and principal geneticist of the Department of Agriculture. Ultraviolet rays, Dr. Stadler explained, are neither so violent in their action nor so wholesale in their scope as are X-rays, although the results are superficially similar. It is found that X-rays frequently knock out and destroy whole sections of the chromosomes but they rarely merely change their positions. Ultraviolet ray treatment "produces mutations as frequently as does X-ray treatment and does not change the position of the genes." Another advantage of ultraviolet treatment, from the experimenter's point of view, is that it is possible to study and use different wavelengths separately. (Science Service.)

Senate  
May 4

Mr. Bankhead gave notice he will suspend the rules in order to propose to H.R. 5269, agricultural appropriation bill, an amendment to provide \$150,000,000 additional for the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation and to prescribe rules for expenditure of funds for encouraging exportation of cotton or cotton articles.

Mr. Mead spoke briefly in support of S. 1904, to abolish maximum age limits for civil service positions which are not hazardous.

Adjourned until May 8.

House  
May 4

Began debate on H.R. 6149, Navy Department appropriation bill, which was reported from the Committee on Appropriations (H.Rept. 539).

The Committee on Public Lands reported with amendment H.R. 3759, to authorize a national Mississippi River Parkway (H.Rept. 542).

Congress  
May 5

The Senate Committee on Appropriations reported with amendments H.R. 5269, agricultural appropriation bill, although the Senate was not in session.

Messrs. Lee, Chapman and Mapes were appointed House conferees on H.R. 5762, to provide for temporary postponement of certain provisions of the federal food, drug and cosmetic act.

The Committee on the District of Columbia reported without amendment H.R. 5987, to amend the D.C. traffic act so as to allow government vehicle operators stationed in the field to drive in D.C. on temporary official business without D.C. permits (H.Rept. 561).

Adjourned until May 8.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Technology  
in Farming

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has undertaken a study of the effects which technological developments in agriculture have had on agricultural production, with particular reference to their effects on the adjustments and changes now being made in agriculture and the relation of these changes to agricultural programs. Twelve committees have been formed to study independently such topics as farm power and equipment; conservation practices; developments in fertilizers and use of fertilizers; industrial uses of farm products; methods in processing and marketing farm products; developments in animal breeding and feeding; plant breeding and disease control; developments in production and use of pastures in farm crops; farm forestry; wildlife restoration; roads and other improvements in transportation; and rural electrification. (B.A.E. News, May 1.)

Teletypewriter  
Service

The county extension office of Cumberland County, N.J., claims to have the first teletypewriter hookup in the entire Extension Service, according to County Agent Raynaley. The New Jersey Extension Service cooperates with the Board of Freeholders, which gives financial support to the work, in maintaining close market connections for the benefit of producers of various commodities in the county. (Extension Service Review, May.)

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 27

Section 1

May 9, 1939

**DEPARTMENT SUPPLY BILL** The Senate yesterday added \$383,384,959 to the Agriculture Department bill as passed by the House, raising the total of this appropriation bill to \$1,218,603,572. The Senate adopted programs of parity payments and federal purchase of surplus commodities, despite House defeats already administered to these items. The Senate also rejected economy warnings by Secretary Morgenthau, who, while the Senate was voting, reiterated the necessity of stopping "deficit spending" and warned that the proposed increases in agricultural benefits might involve changes in the tax program of the government. (New York Times.)

The digest of the Office of Budget and Finance of the Department says all the Senate Committee on Appropriations amendments were agreed to, except as follows: acquisition of lands for national forests was increased to \$5,000,000; the tobacco inspection act was increased to \$525,000. Mr. Downey submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to the bill, to provide an additional \$53,000, under forest insects, for control of the pine beetle in California. Mr. Bankhead submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to the bill, relative to exportation of cotton or cotton articles, etc.

**NATIONAL 4-H CAMP** The 1939 National 4-H Club Camp will be held in Washington, June 15 to 21, Dr. C. W. Warburton, director of Extension work, announces. Two outstanding boys and two leading girls from each of 42 or more states are expected to attend. Delegates are picked from the 1,286,000 boys and girls in 4-H Clubs, according to their leadership records. This camp will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation on a national basis of the Extension Service and the land grant colleges, which supervises 4-H Club work. During that time 7,500,000 boys and girls have received 4-H training.

**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS** More than 100 farmer-organized soil conservation districts in 22 states have requested Soil Conservation Service assistance in local programs of better land use and soil erosion control, Chief H. H. Bennett announces. The districts cover more than 55,000,000 acres of farm and range land. Dr. Bennett pointed out that thousands of farmers are now taking a more active role than ever before in protecting and conserving agricultural resources.

Documentary Herman H. Fussler, University of Chicago, in the  
Reproduction Journal of Documentary Reproduction (March) discusses  
microphotography and the future of interlibrary loans.

"There are three distinct ways in which material may be cheaply and economically reproduced by photography," he says in part, "(1) microfilm as we commonly think of it in strips or rolls, consisting of either a positive or negative image, (2) enlargement prints on paper made from film, which are easily read with the naked eye, and (3) photostats, with which we are all familiar. Each of these has a rather definite place and involves little or no conflict with the other. Photostats serve efficiently for the very short runs of from 5 or 10 pages. Enlargement prints become more efficient than photostats in quantities of from 5 to 10 pages or more. Microfilm can again serve from 5 to 10 pages or more, but is limited in the very short runs by the factor of convenience. For a person who seldom uses film and has no satisfactory way of reading it, enlargement prints are much to be preferred despite their greater cost which, beyond the minimum limit, is still from one half to one fifth that of photostating. For long runs, film itself is the only efficient solution unless other factors (e.g., close comparison of two texts) are brought into play."

Microfilm With the appearance of Volume I, Number 1, of Micro-  
Abstracts film Abstracts, University Microfilms has placed in opera-  
tion a plan of low-cost publication of material intended  
for limited distribution. The method, described in A Plan for Publication  
of Scholarly Material by Microfilm (Ann Arbor, Michigan; University Micro-  
films, 1938) is designed to facilitate the distribution of the products  
of scholarly research, which by reason of specialization or limited appeal  
cannot be printed. Authors submit a carefully prepared typed manuscript,  
and an abstract of 300 to 500 words. The abstracts are published in a  
booklet of abstracts issued at periodical intervals. For each title in  
the booklet of abstracts, a title and an author card is prepared, and a  
copy of the booklet, together with one complete set of the cards, is dis-  
tributed without charge to 200 of the leading libraries in the United States  
and abroad. A microfilm negative of the thesis or monogram is prepared  
and deposited with University Microfilms. The cost of securing positive  
copies is listed in Microfilm Abstracts. (Journal of Documentary Reproduc-  
tion, March.)

Coffee The Department of Commerce reports a record volume of  
Imports 1,987,127,018 pounds of coffee, valued at \$137,821,215,  
imported into the United States during 1938. The value,  
however, was 8 percent lower than in 1937, when imports amounted to 1,697,-  
092,714 pounds and brought \$150,577,930. Brazil continued to be the chief  
supplier of coffee. (A.P.).

Itinerant  
Merchants

Iowa, alone of the states in the Middle West, succeeded in getting its legislature to adopt an itinerant merchant bill this year, says a Des Moines report in the Northwestern Miller (May 3). The law, passed by both houses of legislature April 24, is not exactly in the form wanted by the feed and grain trades, but it is described by Ron Kennedy, secretary of the Independent Feed Dealers of Iowa and the Western Grain & Feed Dealers Association, as "a good start toward fair regulation." The law defines an itinerant merchant as one who transports personal property for sale by him within the state by use of motor vehicle. If a trucker comes into the state empty and buys grain to take out of Iowa, he will not be covered by the law, but if he comes in with any kind of merchandise and sells it, he will be covered. License fees are low, however, and a \$250 bond applies only to those hauling in excess of 2,500 lbs. The new law went into effect May 1.

Building  
Industry

"Building industry figures recently published by the National Association of Building Trades Employers point to the greatest activity in this field in some years," says an editorial in the New York Times (May 4). "Compared with a year ago, residential and industrial construction in the first quarter of 1939 is estimated to have shown an increase of over 40 percent. According to the F. W. Dodge figures, which go back considerably further, the quarter was the most active first quarter since 1931. Inasmuch as the construction industry has been one of the most laggard during the depression, its steady expansion in recent months is one of the more encouraging aspects of the current business outlook. Even more significant is the fact that the lead in the industry is currently being taken by the residential building division. In this field the value of contracts awarded has shown a gain of more than 80 percent over a year ago. Private nonresidential building, reflecting chiefly commercial and industrial construction, also has been doing relatively well. These developments are of special importance because they point to a tendency toward reduced dependence by the industry upon Government-financed public works. Certainly the full re-establishment of the industry on a basis of private activity would be an important contribution to sound recovery."

Rural Power  
Demonstra-  
tions

The extensive educational program of the Georgia Power Co. in cooperation with REA electric membership co-operatives is being received in the Empire State of the South with great enthusiasm. Georgia Power is sending into the REA territory farm and home demonstration coaches. A power company engineer is in charge of the coach and a home economist conducts cooking demonstrations in the built-in all-electric kitchen. Joe McGee, honor graduate of the State College of Agriculture and a former farm agent, is making a demonstration tour of the co-operative lines. He explains and exhibits household and farm electric appliances and presents the advantages to be gained through their use. (Electrical World, April 29).

Refrigerator Fan Cars In a paper in Refrigerating Engineering (May) on "Forced Air Circulation for Refrigerator Cars" F. C. Lindvall, California Institute of Technology, discusses the fan car (with a built-in fan). He says in conclusion: "Test results prove that the built-in fan effects immediate improvement in refrigerated shipments through uniformly low temperatures maintained in any size of load. That result in itself means much to those concerned with good refrigeration. Yet it means even more in practical benefits to both shipper and carrier. Because the fan permits larger loads in a car the carrier handles a given tonnage in fewer cars with substantial operating economies. . . A fan operating in transit provides improved refrigeration in a car and permits larger loads. Moreover, heated shipments are improved by the fan because the load may be held at a uniform low temperature without danger of doorway freezing. The carrier benefits through more efficient transportation and reduction in damage claims. The shipper in turn benefits from heavier loads through lower freight rates, and from reduced refrigeration charges which are based on cars rather than tonnage. The shipper may precool his loads with a simple portable motor without access to the load. He thus saves a precooling service charge and at times, the inconvenience of a hold-over for adequate precooling since the fan continues the cooling in transit. The improved refrigeration delivers the product in better condition and permits shipment of riper produce. In other words, the shipper has available through forced air circulation in transit improved refrigeration with all of its associated benefits."

Foreign Trade in Foodstuffs An increase of \$142,549,000 in the value of aggregate grain and grain products exports from the United States and a drastic decrease in imports of such products characterized the foreign trade of the United States in foodstuffs in 1938, according to C. Roy Mundee, chief of the Foodstuffs Division of the Department of Commerce. Exports reached a value of \$233,554,000 in the calendar year 1938, compared with \$91,095,000 in 1937. This was the highest recorded for any year since 1929. Such exports in 1936 were valued at \$29,556,000 and in 1935 at \$28,922,000. Imports in 1938 were valued at \$7,976,000, or only 7.8 percent of the 1937 figure of \$102,392,000, which compared with \$84,468,000 in 1936 and \$73,314,000 in 1935. Last year was the first since 1934 in which the value of imports of grain and grain products was less than that of exports. Corn headed the grain export list; shipments amounting to 147,505,105 bushels valued at \$94,496,089, or more than the combined value of all grains exported in any one of the three preceding years. The United Kingdom and Canada were the chief corn markets. Wheat ranked second with shipments totaling 86,980,843 bushels valued at \$78,141,208, a total more than twice as large as that of 1937 and many times in excess of the 1936 and 1935 figures. The United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands were the chief purchasers. (Press.)

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 28

Section 1

May 10, 1939

**GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION** Transfer of a score of bureaus and merger of several independent agencies into executive departments was recommended by President Roosevelt yesterday in presenting his reorganization plan No. 2 to Congress.

The order calls for abolition of the National Bituminous Coal Commission, its functions to be turned over to the Secretary of the Interior, and consolidation of the Rural Electrification Administration into the Department of Agriculture.

Outstanding changes among the old-established branches of the executive departments are: Biological Survey to Interior; Bureau of Insular Affairs from War to Interior; Bureau of Lighthouses from Commerce to the Coast Guard under the Treasury; Bureau of Fisheries from Commerce to Interior; transfer of the foreign service functions of Commerce and Agriculture to the State Department, which has the effect of dividing the scope of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in the Commerce Department.

The Office of Director General of Railroads and the War Finance Corporation would be abolished.

The National Emergency Council would be abolished and its functions placed under the White House Executive Office, except the radio and film services of the council, which go to the new Federal Security Agency, set up under the first reorganization plan.

Other consolidations are: placing of the Inland Waterways Corporation in the Commerce Department; the Codification Board is abolished and its functions assigned to the Federal Register, Division of National Archives; Federal Prison Industries, Inc., is merged into the Justice Department; the Migratory Bird Commission and the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission go into the Interior Department.

The President declared this would be his final reorganization proposal to Congress this session. (Washington Star.)

**BUYING POWER IN FARM AREAS** Noteworthy strength of consumer purchasing power in farm areas and small cities is revealed in reports of the bigger mail order houses, says an Associated Press report from New York. Montgomery Ward & Company rolled up April sales of \$41,595,351, the biggest for any April in the company's history. Sears, Roebuck & Company's sales at \$49,159,636 were likewise the biggest April the company had had. Statisticians say sales of mail order houses as a group come approximately 65 percent from urban and 35 percent from rural sources, and the so-called urban sales are centered largely in small and medium-sized communities.

May 10, 1939

Tenant Purchase Program "A lot of tenants want to buy farms," says an editorial in the Farmer-Stockman (May 1). "They are perfectly willing to buy even when they have no money to pay down. This is proved by the reaction to the tenant purchase program of the Farm Security Administration. In some counties in which the program is in operation, from 10 to 20 times as many renters applied for loans as could be financed. In other counties in which the program is not being operated, tenants and others are demanding that their counties be included in the program. . . In financing tenants with the full purchase price of a farm we are making a careful approach to a shift in land ownership from the absent owners of a farm to a man who lives on and tills it. In making this shift we are trying something new. Never before have men borrowed the full purchase price of a farm when bought at its full productive value. Can farms be paid for when so bought? The best opinion at this time is that the program, if it is to succeed, must be expanded slowly. Extreme care must be used in selecting not only the tenant but the farm which he buys. Extreme care must be used in seeing that he doesn't pay too much for the farm he is financed to buy. By going slowly, the purchase price of farms in some counties has been reduced an average of \$1,000 each below the option price secured by the tenant himself. . ."

Periodical Trap-Nesting M. W. Olson, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, writes in Poultry Science (May) on the value of periodical trap-nesting. He concludes: "Trap-nesting daily for the entire year is scarcely necessary as a means of selecting pullets of unusual productive ability for breeding stock. The plan of trap-nesting one day a week is proposed for practical poultrymen and progressive farm-flock owners. Such a plan, although not adapted for determining the whole-year egg yield with complete accuracy, is nevertheless serviceable for detecting the most prolific layers. The conclusions are based on correlation coefficients and standard error of estimates that were determined by analysis of records of 500 S. C. White Leghorns and 390 S. C. Rhode Island Reds."

March Farm Receipts March receipts from the sale of principal farm products were larger than in March 1938 by 5 percent in the East North Central States and 8 percent in the West North Central. For the other four regions decreases, of from 3 percent in the Western States to 34 percent in the South Central region, were reported. Total receipts, including Government payments, in March were larger than for a year earlier in all regions except the North Atlantic and the South Central States for which the decreases were 10 percent and 19 percent, respectively. Receipts from farm marketings in March amounted to \$487,000,000, 5 percent smaller than the \$512,000,000 estimated for March 1938. Income from crop marketings was down 12 percent from March last year and receipts from sales of livestock and livestock products were 1 percent smaller.

Standards for Cans "Fruits and vegetables will be packed in a very limited number of can sizes under the new set of standards fixed voluntarily by the membership of the National Canners Association," says Food Industries (May). "Seventeen can sizes will account for about 92 percent of the number of fruit and vegetable cans. An additional sixteen sizes are required for certain special commodities requiring peculiar dimensions or unusually small containers. The total of 33 sizes of cans is in striking contrast with the practice reported last year, during which at least 155 can sizes were used for fruits and vegetables. The preliminary survey made by National Canners Association disclosed that a majority of all canned goods were put into a very limited number of sizes of containers. . . This list of 33 items would be even more brief had it not been for certain specialties like pimiento, mushrooms, vacuum-pack corn, long pineapple spears, and other kinds of goods, the nature of which makes necessary either odd shapes or special small sizes... National Canners Association in announcing the standards emphasizes two important advantages. From the standpoint of the purchaser of canned goods, the simplification will insure that cans which look alike are actually of the same size. Thus the chance of unintentional deception and unfair comparison between two makers of canned goods is eliminated. In the second place, the cost of making the cans and the cost of cartons and boxes is reduced to a minimum."

Licensing of Cold Lockers Final legislative approval has been given to a bill in the Iowa Legislature, defining and licensing refrigerated locker plants, and providing a lien upon food stored in lockers in favor of the plant operator. This measure is believed to be the first proposal for licensing refrigerated locker plants to be enacted by a State Legislature. The State Department of Agriculture is charged with licensing locker plants, first determining on examination of the plant whether sanitary conditions and equipment have been provided. The bill assesses an annual license fee of \$10 for the first 300 locker units and \$2 for each additional 100 lockers or fraction thereof in each plant. It provides that "all food must be sharp frozen before it shall be placed in a refrigerated locker, and shall be kept at a temperature of 15° F. or less." The department is to establish rules governing preparation of food products that may be stored in refrigerated lockers. (Ice and Refrigeration, May.)

Civil Service Examination The Civil Service Commission announces the following examination; No. 47, assembled; Assistant Lay Inspector, \$1,620, Bureau of Animal Industry: Applications must be on file not later than (a) May 29, if received from States other than those named in (b); (b) June 1, if received from the following States; Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Senate

May 8

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment S. 446, to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act by authorizing the Secretary to prescribe maximum and minimum rates, by forbidding stockyards from collecting more or less than the rate prescribed, and by requiring certificates of public convenience and necessity of persons who hereafter become stockyards owners, dealers, etc. (S. Rept. 401).

House

May 8

Passed without amendment H. R. 5987, to amend the D. C. Traffic Act so as to allow Government vehicle operators stationed in the field to drive in D. C. on temporary official business without D. C. permits.

Passed H. R. 6149, Navy Department appropriation bill.

The Committee on Judiciary reported without amendment H. R. 5380, to provide that Government employees called for jury service in the U. S. courts shall not be paid therefor, but their salaries shall not be diminished on account of such service, and they shall not be charged leave (H. Rept. 568).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Instalment

Loans for

Farmers

Roscoe Macy, in a short article on instalment loans for farmers, in Banking (May) says in part: "The bank which serves a predominantly rural community must work out its own form of purchase contract, since the standard instalment plan is wholly unfitted to the peculiarities of farm income. This article is therefore written with the rural bank primarily in mind. There is reason to believe that the experience of one Iowa bank which pioneered in the instalment field will hold helpful pointers for similar institutions which are considering this possible source of additional income. Since 1934, this bank has regularly employed from 25 to 35 percent of its lendable funds in financing the purchase by farmers of automobiles, trucks, tractors and other heavy farm machinery. It realizes a net return of 7 to 10 percent on the outstanding total-- and has yet to write off its first loss... The bank purchases all its instalment paper from the dealers who sold the merchandise. Because it makes none of these loans direct, it is not required to qualify under the personal loan law, effective in most jurisdictions. This procedure, moreover, makes for effective dealer cooperation in keeping loans up to a high credit standard. On the other hand, the dealer is not required to endorse 'with recourse', although he does enter into a separate re-possession agreement which has roughly the same effect... The bank has never tried to establish any arbitrary system of maturities for farmers' instalment contracts. The dealer who is making the sale knows what these broad limitations are, and endeavors to arrange a contract with the purchaser which will fall within them. But he makes it clear to his customer that these dates, once fixed, are unalterable until at least half the principal has been retired, and that even then extensions or renewals will be possible only under special circumstances. The bank's president regards this feature as one of the foundation stones of his bank's successful experience with instalment financing."

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 29

Section 1.

May 11, 1939

**COTTON EXPORT  
AID DEFEATED**

Efforts to write a cotton export subsidy program into the \$1,218,000,000 agriculture appropriation bill failed in the Senate yesterday. The test vote, taken on a technical question to suspend the rules, resulted in 36 ayes and 37 noes. It definitely barred the proposed subsidy plan, as sponsored by Senator Bankhead, from this bill, for his motion to suspend required a two-thirds affirmative vote. It left inconclusive, however, the question of whether the subsidy program might not have some chance of passage in regular order, when it would need only a majority vote. (New York Times.)

**WHEAT CROP  
ESTIMATE**

The winter wheat crop was estimated yesterday at 543,- 928,000 bushels by the Department of Agriculture on the basis of conditions on May 1. Since that date, the report noted, there has been further decrease in prospects for winter wheat in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington. The estimate was well below winter wheat production of 686,637,000 bushels in 1938 and under the 10-year average of 560,160,000 bushels for 1928-37. The May 1 indicated yield for a harvested acre is 14 bushels, compared with 13.8 bushels last year and the 10-year average of 14.5 bushels. The reports of that date indicate that 15.7 percent of last fall's seeded acreage will not be harvested, whereas abandonment was 11.8 percent in 1938. The 10-year average is 18.7 percent. (New York Times.)

**WORLD WHEAT  
CARRYOVER**

The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome estimated yesterday that the world's carryover of wheat is more than twice as large as was that of a year ago. Exportable supplies in producing countries on March 1, it reported, totaled 789,000,000 bushels, compared with 360,000,000 on the same date in 1938. (A.P.)

**VENEZUELAN  
TRADE FACT**

The provisional commercial agreement concluded between the United States and Venezuela a year ago was extended for another year, or until such time as a reciprocal trade agreement is completed, the State Department announced yesterday. The agreement was due to expire today. A reciprocal trade agreement is now being negotiated. (New York Times.)

May 11, 1939

Sheep  
Refuges

An S.O.S. that has been going the rounds in the interest of America's diminishing big-horn sheep has been partially answered in the establishment (by the U.S.D.A.) of two new refuge areas totaling more than a million and a half acres--both in the State of Arizona. The larger of the two--the Cabeza Prieta preserve--abuts the Mexican border, and efforts are being made for creation of an adjoining refuge in Mexico which will make the general preserve even larger. The second Arizona refuge, the Kofa, lying 35 miles north, comprises 661,120 acres. As evidence of the need for establishing such wildlife protective areas, the 1937 estimate of Arizona's big-horn sheep population was only slightly in excess of 1,700 head. (Field and Stream, June.)

New Duck  
Stamps

"Lynn Bogue Hunt, member of Field & Stream's art staff, and nationally known wildlife painter, is the creator of the 1939 duck stamp which will go on sale in post-offices throughout the country on July 1," says Field & Stream (June). "Mr. Hunt's subjects are male and female green-winged teal. The stamps, priced at \$1.00, are required of any waterfowl hunter over 16 years of age. They may be purchased singly, in blocks, or in sets of 28 stamps. Since 1934, the first year they were required of duck shooters, \$3,000,000 has been realized on their sale, 90 percent of which has gone to the Bureau of Biological Survey for establishing national waterfowl refuges."

Chemurgic  
Research

Wheeler McMillen, in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry (May) writes on "Chemurgy--Utilization of Farm Products in the American Way." He says in part: "Possibly the most spectacular result of the educational work done in recent years are the four new regional laboratories, authorized last year by Congress and provided with annual appropriations of one million dollars each. Although the Department of Agriculture has almost from its beginning recognized occasional industrial possibilities from agricultural materials, the creation of these laboratories marks the first substantial recognition by government of the necessity for more vigorous chemurgic research. Much of the research in this field must be done by government on the broad ground that new knowledge will eventually benefit all the people. Industries cannot be expected to conduct random research into farm products. Farmers cannot be organized to supply such large funds, nor should they be expected to do so since they are not the sole beneficiaries."

In "Federal Research Contributes to the American Way," in the same periodical, Dexter North describes, among other government bureaus, the work of the Bureaus of Chemistry and Soils, Dairy Industry, Plant Industry, and Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

Rural relief . . . . . Rural regions most dependent upon non-agricultural sources for income were particularly dependent on relief during depression years, according to a report covering an investigation in thirty-two States, made public by Colonel F. C. Harrington, Works Progress Administrator. The acuteness of the relief problem in rural areas was attributed in the report, prepared by A. R. Mangus, to depression and drought against a background of poor soil, low wages, meager education and depleted forests and mines. Regions found to have had heavy rural relief loads were the Appalachian-Ozark area of Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and adjoining States and the cut-over areas in the Great Lakes States of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Rural relief loads were comparatively low, the report stated, in such relatively prosperous farming regions as the Corn Belt centering around Iowa and the hay and dairy areas bordering the cut-over area. In both the particularly distressed regions the farms are largely self-sufficing, or of a nature to require part-time attention, with farmers normally depending on work in the woods or mines for much of their cash income. Earnings of families with partial employment averaged only \$5 a week, and only 12 percent had any wage employment at the time. Each worker had an average of more than two dependents. Two-thirds of the rural relief households contained children under 16 years of age, averaging about three to a household, and nearly one-fifth of the households contained aged persons over 64 years of age, averaging one to a household. Only one-fifth of the households had neither young nor old dependents. Heads of households were forty years of age on the average. More than a tenth of them were women. (Press.)

N. C. Women's Curb Markets "Confronted with the fundamental and disturbing problem of low farm income in the South, farm women in North Carolina have been quick to see the home demonstration curb market as a practical, and often a very pleasant solution, to their economic situation," says Cornelia C. Morris, Extension Economist in Food Conservation and Marketing, in the Southern Planter (May). "Today there are forty-two thriving curb markets in North Carolina where business-like farm women stand behind table or counter and in exchange for butter, eggs, poultry, cakes, fruit, vegetables, flowers and sundry commodities which they pass out to their customers, receive annually the tidy sum of more than a quarter of a million dollars. The exact figure for 1938 was \$309,149.99. . . Cash and carry prices are posted on a large blackboard by a committee and producers are provided with market report blanks which are to be filled in and given to the market manager at the close of the market. Markets operate approximately three hours a day once or twice a week. Saturday is the best market day. . . Market advisory committees are composed of both producers and consumers. . ."

New State Food Laws Food Industries (May) reports that North Carolina has joined Indiana in aligning its laws with the federal food, drug and cosmetic act. "Nevada and West Virginia have also passed new food laws," it says, "but these differ from the federal statute in important respects."

May 11, 1939

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported with amendment S. 2270, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase refuge lands in S. C. for the perpetuation of the eastern wild turkey and to provide pure-blood brood stock for restocking within its native range (S.Rept. 405).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

"Then, too, some of our cotton consumers of other years are now trying to become self-sustaining by substituting synthetic fiber for cotton they cannot grow themselves. Germany and Italy, formerly good customers for raw cotton, are relying more and more upon substitutes such as rayon, milk wool and others. When we go to market abroad we must not only meet the price of nations that have been underselling American cotton, but we must offer a product second to none in quality, forget that we ever had a monopoly, meet competition in adequate packaging, and refrain from extra-legal practices of monopoly days such as marketing false packs and, above all, consigning to the customer as nearly as possible the grade and staple cotton ordered..."

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 30

Section 1

May 12, 1939

**ELEVATOR** A series of blasts and roaring flames destroyed five  
**GRAIN FIRES** huge grain elevators yesterday, says a Chicago report by the Associated Press, wiped out all traces of eight missing men and caused damage far in excess of \$3,000,000. The fire--most serious in Chicago since the \$8,000,000 stockyards conflagration of May 1934--raged for five hours before it was brought under control by 400 firemen. Fire Marshall Corrigan estimated the loss in property alone at \$3,000,000. Uncalculated for the time being was the value of more than 3,500,000 bushels of grain that had been stored in the structures. An explosion, believed to have been caused by dust, touched off the blaze in an elevator in the heart of the city's largest granary district.

**CIVIL SERVICE** The Civil Service Commission yesterday said it would  
**TRAINING** ask Congress, through the Budget Bureau, "for an adequate appropriation" to establish a Division of Training to give coordination and consultation service to the program of in-service training ordered by the President last June 24. The commission, in a 13-page statement on the training program, said it does not expect to establish and direct any training courses for the employees of a particular department or agency, or even for groups of agencies where such courses can be or are established by the agencies themselves. Concerning the proposal that credits be given, the commission said it recognizes that "the establishment of credits for in-service training courses in connection with transfer and promotion examinations should wait until the result of research and study has revealed a sound basis for the application of this principle." (Washington Post.)

**AAA AIR** The Agricultural Adjustment Administration yesterday  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** announced that contracts had been awarded for the aerial photography of 215,192 square miles of territory in sixteen North Central and Western States. Bids will be opened today for the photographing of 68,524 additional square miles in the Southern States, bringing the area expected to be photographed this year to a total of 283,716 square miles. Aerial photography is used under the conservation phase of the AAA farm program as a cheaper and more accurate means of checking performance on farms and determining the area of farm fields, than ground observance and measurement. (New York Times.)

May 12, 1939

**Town Forests** In "Town Forests--A Neglected Opportunity," in the *Journal of Forestry* (May), the author, Harris A. Reynolds, Massachusetts Forest and Park Association, says: "...The town forests should be managed by technical foresters, and here is a potential field of new employment for young foresters that may equal the possibilities in state forests or even in the national forests. Under intensive management, including the multiple uses of such areas, a forest of 5,000 acres is large enough to justify the services of a forester. Ten million acres in town forests therefore should give employment to about 2,000 foresters. There are hundreds of small places that could use a forester to advantage in the care of their parks and public shade trees, but they do not have enough work to give him full time employment. If, in addition to parks and shade trees the town owned a forest, the forester might be given regular employment. There is also the possibility of the forester managing the forests of two or more towns as is the practice in Europe, and under a part-time arrangement he could supplement his income by advising private woodland owners. This form of public ownership is highly desirable, but the big problem is to sell the idea to the public. The recent study of the subject by the U. S. Forest Service and the consequent publicity have already given it considerable impetus..."

**Co-op Forest Products Marketing** William T. Hicks, Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, who discusses the economic aspects of cooperative marketing of forest products in the May *Journal of Forestry*, says in part: "The possibilities of cooperative forestry associations are not altogether theoretical. Several associations have been organized. The Otsego Forest Products Cooperative Association, Cooperstown, N.Y., and the Forest Products Association, Inc., Grovetown, N.H., are two examples. The Farmers' Federation, Inc., Asheville, N.C., affords an example of a cooperative handling pulpwood along with other farm products. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the old Federal Farm Board, the Extension Service, and the Farm Credit Administration in particular have rendered aid in marketing agricultural commodities... Nothing indicates that legal aids open to cooperatives in general are not available to cooperatives handling forest products either exclusively or in conjunction with other agricultural products. The Clayton Act passed in 1914 stimulated the formation of non-stock, cooperative associations by exempting them from anti-trust laws, while the Capper-Volstead Act of 1920 gave the same privilege to capital stock cooperatives. In 1926 cooperatives were exempted from payment of an income tax. The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1929 in turn established a \$500,000,000 loan fund, administered through the Federal Farm Board, from which cooperatives could borrow. The Farm Credit Administration and Agricultural Adjustment Administration have continued the policy of providing credit and encouragement for such associations. A number of states have special cooperative marketing association laws. In most such acts forest products are specifically designated as an agricultural commodity. Government aid in marketing forest products has been limited. The U. S. Forest Service, however,-----

had aided through the work of the Forest Products Laboratory in developing new products and through various activities designed to improve management of forest land to yield products of better quality. The Forest Products Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce cooperates with private firms in collecting and distributing marketing information."

**Graded Beef Increases** The annual tonnage of beef graded according to Federal standards rose from more than 408 million pounds in 1937 to nearly 603 million pounds in 1938, or 47.6 percent, according to the B.A.E. The upward trend in tonnage of beef thus graded has been consistent since the service began in 1927, except for 1937 when there was a slight falling off from the previous year. That was caused by the unfavorable effects of the drought and feed situation on the quality of beef marketed in 1937 and because applicants for the service, which is voluntary, limited their demand for graded beef largely to Prime, Choice, and Good grades of steers and heifers. There was an improvement in the average quality of beef produced during 1938 over the previous year, but contrary to the general expectation of the trade the amounts eligible for grading as Prime and Choice were low. Of the 603 million pounds of beef graded and stamped in 1938, approximately 535 million pounds were in the Good, Choice, and Prime grades, and only 62,745,-287 pounds were in the Medium, Plain, and Cutter grades. The percentage of beef graded by classes according to Federal standards during the past year were as follows: Steers 65.5 percent; Heifers 25.3 percent; and Cows 6.8 percent. The grading and stamping services are available to national, city, and State institutions and agencies, as well as to the trade in general. (B.A.E. News, May 1.)

**Farm Real Estate Values** A slight decline in farm real estate values during the 12 months ended March 1, 1939, is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The decline, of only 1 point in the index of the country as a whole, is the first in 6 years. Several scattered states showed increases. The Bureau's index of farm real estate values on March 1 was 84 percent of the 1912-14 level, compared with 85 percent on the same date in 1937 and 1938. Despite the small decline, the index of values is still about 15 percent above the 1933 low. The decline during the past year was attributed chiefly to the lower price levels for farm products and to reduced farm income. The upward trend in farm taxes, however, and the extensive farm real estate holdings of creditor agencies also affected values adversely.

**Dayton Gets Food Stamps** Selection of Dayton, Ohio, as the second city in which the food stamp plan for distributing surpluses through normal channels of trade will be started, has been announced by Secretary Wallace. Relief in Dayton is reported well adapted for test of the food stamp plan. With a population of approximately 220,000, the city has a total of about 14,000 relief cases, representing some 40,000 individuals.

Senate May 10 The Select Committee on Government Organization reported adversely S. Con. Res. 16, opposing reorganization plan no. II.

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment H. R. 2378, to prohibit the exportation of tobacco seed and plants except for experimental purposes (S. Rept. 409).

Both Houses received from the Secretary of Agriculture the report by the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Board on losses from the campaign for eradication of this insect (H. Doc. 290).

House May 10 Debated H. R. 6260, War Department civil appropriation bill, which was reported from the Committee on Appropriations (H. Rept. 604). The bill provides \$3,000,000, to be transferred to this Department, for preliminary examinations and surveys in regard to flood-control projects.

The Committee on Rivers and Harbors reported with amendment S. 685, to create a Division of Water Pollution Control in the Public Health Service (H. Rept. 611).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Sorghums for Livestock "A returning interest in livestock is reflected in the record-breaking crowd which attended the Annual Feeders'

Day at the Nebraska College of Agriculture," says an editorial in the Nebraska Farmer (May 6). "The unusual success in growing and feeding sorghums in Nebraska has placed livestock production on a more stable basis, and farmers have less to fear from dry seasons. Numerous feeding experiments have shown sorghums to be 90 percent as valuable as corn in the feeding ration for all kinds of livestock, and this has established a permanent place for these crops in Nebraska agriculture in sections of the state where limited moisture makes corn an uncertain crop. On a per-acre, rather than a per-bushel basis, the value of sorghums is even more significant as compared to corn... Greater dependability upon sorghums, silage and adequate feed reserves will remove a great deal of the weather hazards in large areas of Nebraska which in drouth years have meant the forced liquidation of livestock, leaving the farmer with little means to produce food for the family, or for market."

Philippine Tariff Bill President Roosevelt has announced an agreement with five members of the Senate Territories Committee on a legislative program for this session of Congress relaxing some of the tariff barriers against Philippine products in the independence act. Senator Tydings (Maryland) committee chairman, announced that the legislation would provide for duty-free import quotas on five Philippine products--cigars, filler tobacco, cocoanut oil, pearl buttons and embroideries. The legislation, the President said, will deal only with economic relations with the islands prior to July 4, 1946, when the islands are granted independence under the act. (Press.)

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 31

Section 1

May 15, 1939

**WORLD WHEAT  
TRADE UP**

The Agriculture Department's Foreign Service has reported that world trade in wheat was 19 percent larger during the first nine months of the current season than in the like period in the previous season. Exports of principal producing countries were reported at 393,259,000 bushels, compared with 330,676,000 in the previous season. They were far short, however, of the average of 763,-120,000 bushels during the 1925-1929 period. The United States shipped 84,977,000 bushels, or about 22 percent of the total. This country's share of exports in the 20's averaged about 23 percent. (A.P.).

**CONSUMER  
PROBLEMS**

Donald E. Montgomery, consumers' counsel for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, outlined to the Federal Monopoly Committee recently a five-point program for protecting consumers. Speaking at the conclusion of a three-day hearing on consumer problems, he urged that the committee: Authorize some government agency to establish standards which would describe the quality and usefulness of consumer goods; investigate all commodity rating agencies; eliminate confusion and deception by standardizing food package sizes; study the effect of resale price maintenance legislation upon retail prices; investigate the cost of distributing consumer goods in general. (A.I.).

**R.R. RATES  
ON CITRUS**

The Interstate Commerce Commission has authorized railroads to continue in effect reduced rates on citrus fruits, in carloads, from points in Texas to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. The reduced rates are intended to enable the railroads to meet the competition of steamship lines from Fort Isabel and Brownsville, Texas, to North Atlantic ports, as well as competition from citrus fruits from Florida. The commission's original authorization for reduced rates from Texas to North Atlantic ports was scheduled to expire July 1. The new order continues the reductions indefinitely. (A.P.)

**FARM MACHINERY  
PRICES INCREASE**

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has reported that prices paid by farmers for farm machinery other than motor vehicles in 1938 averaged 58 percent above prewar figures. The index includes many types of machines, most of which were priced last year at 50 to more than 100 percent above prewar. The report is one of a series on prices paid by farmers for commodities and services and is part of a larger study on income parity for agriculture.

May 15, 1939

Beef Grading Standards      New tentative standards for beef grading which re-present a co-ordination of the seven-grade standard used by the Department of Agriculture and the ten-grade system used by the Institute of American Meat Packers have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The proposed system differs from the present federal standards principally in that a single standard is used instead of separate grades for each class of beef. Under present standards a consumer must be familiar with the merits of each class, as well as the grade of beef, in order to be assured of the quality of beef purchased. Under the proposed standards, which provide for grading steer, heifer, and cow beef under a single standard, the grade name alone will be indicative of the quality. The grades consist of U. S. Prime, U. S. Choice, U. S. Good, U. S. Standard, U. S. Commercial, U. S. Cutter, and U. S. Canner. From a consumer point of view it is necessary under the new system only to be familiar with one series of grade terms and their relative positions in the quality scale. (American Cattle Producer, May.)

Minnesota Farm Laws      The Farmer (St. Paul, May 6) reports that the 1939 Minnesota legislature passed several new laws affecting farmers. One of the most important of these, it says, is the Bang's test law. "This law provides for area testing much as was done under the TB testing law. The county or contiguous townships under this law can become a testing area provided 70 percent of the cattle owners within the area petition for the test. The testing is to be done under the direction of the state Livestock Sanitary Board and, as was done under the TB testing law, indemnities are to be paid farmers to reimburse them for the forced sale of reacting animals. The owner of a reacting animal will get whatever is paid for the animal when sold as meat, but if that doesn't pay the appraised value of the animal he will also get an amount not to exceed \$15 for grades and not to exceed \$25 for purebreds. For paying these indemnities, an appropriation of \$150,000 for each of the next two years was made by the legislature..."

Locker Fruits, H. C. Diehl, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils (Frozen Vegetables Pack Laboratory, Seattle) and Miriam Birdseye, Extension Service, are authors of a paper (Part I) on storage of fruits and vegetables in community freezer lockers, in the April issue of Quick Frozen Foods. They discuss the kinds and varieties of fruits and vegetables best suited to freezing and locker storage, temperatures, containers, packing, and fruit juices and fruit pulps. Part II of the paper will appear in the May issue and will contain charts, procedure in freezing, and a list of fruits and vegetables suitable for different parts of the country.

Comment on An editorial in the Sioux City Tribune (May 5) concerning Farm Chemurgy mentioning on the Department's four new regional research laboratories, says in part: "The hard nut the chemurgical laboratories must crack is the question of economic practicability of processed products. Some time ago a paper factory was set up in Illinois to manufacture paper out of cornstalks. It made a beautiful quality of paper - but it was learned that it cost more to gather cornstalks from the fields and transport them to the factory than it did to ship wood pulp from foreign countries. Similar experiments in producing fuel alcohol from grains and molasses have been successful, but again the cost of production has thus far defied solution. On the other hand some chemurgy has been highly successful. Millions of dollars have been spent by the packers, the cotton, lumber, soybean, sugar cane and other industries, and great new fields of production have been opened up. By-products have made the profits for the packers. Building board from sugar cane stalks, paint and plastics from soybeans, fabrics and paper from wood pulp--these are only a few of the products which have been immensely valuable and practicable."

The Minneapolis Tribune (May 4) commenting editorially on the same subject, says: "...There are waves of sentiment every once in a while which stir high hopes of marketing some agricultural staple in a new way. Talk starts about making alcohol out of corn and then mixing the alcohol with gasoline on a legally prescribed, compulsory basis...Someone says combustion engines must be changed a bit. Someone else thinks of other objections, and gradually the hopeful talk dies away. The progress of what is termed 'chemurgy' is genuine, however. Development of new processes through which products of the soil can be utilized for an almost limitless variety of necessary articles is proceeding steadily...Research experts keep on working quietly in the laboratory, and the fruits of their labors are apparent in new commodities making use of the old staples.... There is no question about the great future which research can develop in the way of industrial absorption of products of the soil."

Frozen Food Cooperatives H. C. Dichl, U.S. Frozen Pack Laboratory (Bureau of Chemistry and Soils) is the author of "A 'Pack' with Possibilities" in News for Farmer Cooperatives (May). He says in one paragraph: "In developing markets for frozen foods (and potential markets have as yet been only slightly touched) sectional co-operation between agricultural groups seems worthy of active promotion. In the Northwest, for instance, the tree-fruit sections produce crops suitable for frozen pack, and they have production and marketing problems which touch closely those of the berry-and vegetable-growing sections. Coordination of their programs will enable such cooperatives to pursue a mutually considerate and profitable program and diminish, if not actually solve, such problems as: 'If people get to eating frozen fruits out of season, what will happen to our apples and pears which we store for out-of-season use?'"

Senate May 11 Mr. Gillette submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to H. R. 5269, agricultural appropriation bill, under eradicating tuberculosis and Bang's disease, to strike out "that no payment hereunder shall exceed the amount paid or to be paid by the State, Territory, county, and municipality where the animal shall be condemned."

Senate May 12 to the Department supply bill, which the Senate passed. The following amendments were agreed to: Gillette amendment to strike out, under eradicating tuberculosis and Bang's disease, "that no payment hereunder shall exceed the amount paid or to be paid by the State, Territory, County, and municipality where the animal shall be condemned;" Wheeler amendment to increase forest management from \$648,403 to \$678,403; Barbour amendment to increase crop and livestock estimates from \$757,510 to \$772,510.

The following amendments were ruled out of order: Walsh amendment earmarking \$2,000,000 of F. S. C. C. funds for New England hurricane-damage payments; Reynolds amendment for reconcentration of cotton in warehouses as near to consuming mills as possible (this amendment was then introduced as S. 2412).

Rejected without a record vote S. Con. Res. 16, disapproving reorganization plan no. II. This plan will become effective on July 9, 1939, unless Congress adjourns sine die before that date, in which case a new 60-day period will begin next year.

Began debate on S. 1100, to provide for completion of the Florida ship canal.

Recessed until Tuesday, May 16.

The House was not in session. Next meeting Monday, May 15.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Vitamin C in Tomato, Orange Olive E. McElroy, Hazel E. Munsell and the late Mabel C. Stienbarger, of the Bureau of Home Economics, write in the Journal of Home Economics (May) on the ascorbic acid (vitamin C) content of tomatoes and tomato and orange juice.

They say in summary: "Canning tomatoes by either the hot-pack or cold-pack method as described in this paper caused no significant loss in ascorbic acid content of the tomatoes. Increase in processing time in the cold-pack method did not affect this vitamin. Tomatoes canned in glass jars and stored for 6 months at room temperature, either on open shelves receiving considerable sunlight or on darkened shelves, lost approximately the same amount of ascorbic acid, namely from 30 to 50 percent. Commercially canned tomato juice showed no significant loss in ascorbic acid value when stored in loosely covered containers in a refrigerator for 4 days. Juice prepared from commercially canned tomatoes and from fresh tomatoes and stored under the same conditions showed significant losses of this vitamin after 2 days of storage. Freshly extracted orange juice in the same study showed slight but gradual loss of ascorbic acid, beginning about the second day. None of the four juices tested lost appreciable amounts of ascorbic acid during the first 24 hours."

# DAILY DIGEST

pared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 32

Section 1

May 16, 1939

**STOCKYARDS CASE RULING** The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to defer distribution of \$586,000 to commission men at the Kansas City stockyards until Secretary Wallace can pass anew on the reasonableness of charges they made from 1933 to 1937, says an Associated Press report. This represented a victory for the government in the long-litigated case: Justice Stone delivered the decision that reversed a ruling by the Western Missouri Federal District Court ordering the money returned to the commission men. Justices Butler, McReynolds and Roberts dissented, contending that the lower court's decree should have been affirmed. The \$586,000 represented the difference between the amount the commission men collected from farmers selling livestock and lower rates prescribed by Secretary Wallace. The money was retained by the District Court pending a final decision on the litigation.

**WHEAT ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS** There will be no wheat marketing quotas this year, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace announced yesterday. This means there will be no referendum on this question by wheat farmers. Secretary Wallace also announced the wheat acreage allotment for 1940 would be 62,000,000 acres, an increase of 7,000,000 over the 55,000,000 allowed this year. The estimated total supply of wheat on July 1 will be 974,000,000 bushels, which compares with a total supply of 1,085,000,000 bushels at the beginning of the crop year. R. M. Evans, AAA Administrator, hailed the new acreage allotments as evidence that "widespread cooperation" of farmers in respecting the 1939 allotments had "brought substantial results in the first year of operation of the new wheat program." (New York Times.)

**FOOD STAMPS IN ROCHESTER** Welfare authorities, relief recipients and grocers in Rochester yesterday put the finishing touches on the nation's first test of proposed distribution of surplus foods by stamps, says an Associated Press report. As grocers set up attractive displays of the foods--butter, eggs, flour, citrus fruits, cornmeal and beans--the officials of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation prepared to distribute orange and blue stamps at the rate of \$1.50 for every dollar. The plan goes into effect today and relief agencies have announced they would cooperate by urging recipients to take their cash to the FSCC for redemption. Grocers have promised to cooperate by signing pledge cards promising "no chiseling."

May 16, 1939

Improvement of Markets "It costs about one-and-a-half billion dollars to distribute a one-billion-dollar crop of fruits and vegetables and considerably more than half of that huge cost is incurred after the produce reaches the large cities," says C. B. Sherman, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in American City (May). "Why? Notably because most large markets are old, poorly planned, poorly placed, with obsolete equipment, narrow stores, single entrances, insufficient storage rooms, and, above all, with inadequate space everywhere. A recent survey of 101 wholesale markets in 40 cities, which handle about half of the fruit and vegetable crop of the country, showed that the chief problems are common to most of these markets...What to do about it? Philadelphia is working on ways and means, although its markets are about as complex and puzzling as any...Growers are given the same chance to take part as dealers and consumers, and all are now interested. Philadelphia has done a particularly good job in bringing the different groups together. Plans now worked out would save from one to two million dollars each year in distribution costs in that city. These plans have been discussed with representatives of growers, the trade, the railroads, the consumer, and other groups. Newspapers and radio have taken part. Growers have established county committees, a state committee, and a regional committee to insist on improvements--for Philadelphia draws produce from several states. Dealers who handle three-fourths of the produce marketed there, and large groups of consumers, have agreed that they want action. Finally, a joint committee has been formed composed of three growers, three members of the trade, and two consumers. Its duty is to coordinate the activities of the groups and help to concentrate on the selection of approved plans and the procedures to be used in putting the plan into operation. Then an agency must be established to work for the groups in actually promoting, building, leasing, and managing the necessary facilities. This is highly specialized work...In order that any large community that wants to may have disinterested guidance based on study and experience in many large cities, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is now supplying an advisor if requested, provided the Department is convinced that the community is ready for effective debate and action..."

Plant Food in Fertilizers "State and Federal agricultural authorities and fertilizer manufacturers agree that all too frequently the number of fertilizer grades sold and used in a given area is far greater than necessity or sound farming practices would demand," says an editorial in the Fertilizer Review (March-April). "For 20 years the National Fertilizer Association and fertilizer manufacturers have been cooperating with State officials in reducing the farmer's fertilizer expense by discontinuing the use of unnecessary grades. The farmer's plant-food bill has been cut down also by increasing the plant-food content of fertilizer...The average available plant-food content of complete fertilizers has risen from 13.9 percent in 1920 to 18.4 percent

in 1936. The average available phosphoric acid content of superphosphate sold to farmers has risen from 11.11 percent in 1930 to 19.01 percent in 1937. Another factor that has contributed to the reduction of plant-food cost in fertilizer is the development of new and less expensive processes for the production of certain fertilizer materials and their utilization in fertilizer mixtures. The reduction of the cost of plant-food content in mixed fertilizers is well illustrated by this comparison. In 1928 farmers purchased 7,985,000 tons of fertilizer containing 1,357,000 tons of plant food at a cost of \$275,000,000. In 1938 they purchased 7,504,000 tons of fertilizer containing 1,380,000 tons of plant food at a cost of \$192,000,000. As compared with 1928, 1938 showed 6 percent less tonnage, 30 percent less cost, and 2 percent more plant food."

Cooperative Veterinary Medicine

An article in Ohio Farmer (May 6) by Carl Drumm, describes cooperative veterinary service in Ohio under the Farm Security Administration. Under the first plan, in Scioto County, he says, forty FSA clients put in \$10 each. "This \$400 was to pay a veterinarian for the following services: (1) Three inspection visits to each client to survey the health of his livestock; give advice; treat sick animals; and dehorn, dock, castrate and otherwise treat animals at the request of the client; (2) Two emergency visits to each client; (3) Free consultation at the veterinarian's office. Dr. James W. Robertson, the veterinarian chosen by the group, worked for reduced fees to see what the program could accomplish in the way of preventive medicine. Records of the group show that Dr. Robertson was able to save his clients money in a number of instances...Most clients appeared to like the system. In 1938 it was continued, with a membership of 60 as compared with the 1937 enrollment of 40...In 1938 in Wyandot County, a 'unit' system was set up. The more livestock a man owns, the more he pays for inspection fees. A limit is placed on the amount of work that may be required from the doctor on inspection trips. All five Wyandot County veterinarians are included in the program, so no one is overburdened. The fee, \$3.50 for an emergency, plus mileage above 10 miles, approaches the normal charge. Six inspections are required, at \$7 to \$12 for the six, depending on the amount of livestock owned...Some men feel that they do not get their money's worth from inspections. Others regard this service as health insurance for their livestock, and are satisfied. Most veterinarians consider the fees too small...FSA officials admit frankly that they do not know how the plan will work out. 'This is an experiment,' says Russell Knoop, of the Columbus FSA office. 'We think it may be the answer to a great many problems of the livestock farmer. But owners and veterinarians must exercise common sense and cooperate with each other, neither group expecting too much at first, until we have given this thing a fair trial!'"

Botanical Congress

Carl O. Erlanson, of the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry, describes in the Bulletin of the Pan American Union (May) the first South American Botanical Congress. Mr. Erlanson was a United States delegate to the congress.

Steel Farm Buildings      Business Week (May 13) reports that a company in Tennessee has completed tests of prefabricated steel buildings for farms. "The buildings will be sold 'whole-sale' only and will consist of five-item units (dwelling, barn, chicken house, smokehouse, privy)," it says. "First experiment was with 14 units sold to the Farm Security Administration. They were erected on rural sites in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida... The company has completed preparations for production... Cooling is achieved by a simple circulation system. Wall panels have holes in the bottom and top. Cool air comes in at the bottom and hot air escapes at the top. Heating proved more of a problem than cooling. The company is experimenting with a fireplace unit, available as an extra. It consists of a steel cabinet with a steel fireplace inside. Cold air is taken in at the bottom through grilles, heated in the space between jacket and fireplace, passed out at the top. This provides circulating hot air for the entire house. Steel flues are used to connect with the steel chimney... The barn is 20 by 32 feet, contains corn crib, hay loft, implement space, and two compartments for stock. The poultry house accommodates 50 fowls, is properly ventilated. Chickens enter on a ramp which can be folded up and locked to form a door at night, protecting the inhabitants from prowling foxes or thieves."

Income Report      "The range of individual income in the forty-eight States and the District of Columbia between 1929 and 1937 is the subject of a study made public recently by Secretary Hopkins, the first of its kind ever undertaken... A study including 1938 figures will be made public later in the year. From a 1929 total of \$79,988,000,000 in incomes there was a decline to \$45,782,000,000 in 1933, succeeded by a gradual ascent to \$70,645,000,000 in 1937, the study shows. Of the various classes of income included in the study it is noted that in 1929 wages and salaries represented 63.6 percent of total income and that relief and other similar income represented 1.2 percent, while in 1937 wages and salaries had shrunk to 59.8 percent and relief income had increased to 5.5 percent. Wages and salaries accounted for between 50 and 65 percent of income payments in 1937 in most States. In most of the States from 5 to 8 percent of total income took the form 'other labor income and relief'... The report shows that the average income per man, woman and child in 1937 was \$547 which, according to the survey, equals about \$2,200 per family of four persons... The report indicates that there is some general relationship between the density of population in a State and the size of the average income, and that the denser the population, the higher the annual average income. The ten States with the highest per capita incomes contained 25.9 percent of the total population of the country and 37.5 percent of the total income. At the other extreme, the fifteen States with the lowest average incomes contained 29.4 percent of the population and accounted for only 16.9 percent of the total income payments. Of the ten most densely populated States, all had per capita incomes above the national level in 1937, and six of these were among the ten States with the highest per capita incomes." (New York Times.)

# DAILY DIGEST

pared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 33

Section I

May 17, 1939

**ECONOMIC OUTLOOK** The Bureau of Agricultural Economics appraised economic conditions yesterday as continuing to point to some improvement in business activity this summer and to a relatively stable demand for farm products through the balance of the year, says an Associated Press report. In its monthly economic review, the bureau said the outlook for foreign demand for American agricultural products appeared a "shade" better in early May than it did a month ago. Commenting on economic developments in general, the bureau said unsettled political conditions in Europe and the domestic coal strike had kept industrial activity from registering anticipated improvement during the spring months.

**ROCHESTER FOOD STAMPS** A Rochester report to the New York Times says it was estimated that fully 3,000 persons on relief had purchased orange stamps and received their blue stamps gratis yesterday. James S. Allen, national administrator of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, said he expected that by Thursday a peak day will be reached, after stamp purchasers have spread the word of how they were cared for at the FSCC office and in the local stores. A month will elapse before an accurate check can be made of the plan's success.

**EMPLOYMENT ON FARMS** About 11,362,000 persons were employed on farms on May 1, as compared with 11,399,000 May 1, 1938, and 10,131,000 on April 1 of this year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported yesterday. Usually the total of workers on farms increases 12 percent during April. The increase this year was 14 percent. The total included about 8,775,000 family workers, an increase of 1,002,000 in a month. (Press.)

**LUMBER INDUSTRY** Secretary of Commerce Hopkins said yesterday there was encouraging evidence of business improvement within the lumber industry as a result of increased small home building, greater production by furniture manufacturers and related groups, and gains in American exports of lumber and lumber products. Lumber consumption during the first three months of the year was estimated at 5,500,000 board feet, well in advance of last year's figures for the corresponding period. (Press.)

May 17, 1939

State Trade  
Barriers

In "The Consumers' Concern in State Barriers to Trade," C. B. Sherman, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in the *Journal of Home Economics* (May) says that "municipal regulations are often of greater importance than those of the states. Inspection restrictions by New York City, for instance, make it practically impossible to bring in fluid milk or cream from points west of the New York or Pennsylvania state lines. The effect is to bar western cream and to raise the price of cream in the New York City markets. The present trend in the states and municipalities appears to be toward extending inspection to all dairy products, including cheese, butter, ice cream, and ice-cream mix. Some cities apply inspection requirements to cream for table use only. Others apply it to all cream but not to ice-cream mix. Other measures adopted in some places may discourage the consumption of evaporated and condensed milk. It is freely recognized that the protection of health through proper sanitary regulations and license requirements is highly desirable. In spite of the increased cost of milk, probably few consumers would raise serious objection if they were sure that this protection could be had in no other way. But investigators question the social desirability of some of this legislation. They believe that a much greater degree of uniformity in health and sanitary regulations is possible without the loss of full protection to public health...Unreasonable restrictions limit the supply of milk, raise prices, and make it impossible for many families in the low-income brackets to buy milk. 'The municipalities set up virtually an economic autonomy which debars thousands of dairymen and other farmers from marketing an indispensable food,' in the opinion of one investigator. 'These thousands of dairymen are virtually in a "no man's land" outside the territorial confines of the so-called "milk sheds."'"..."

Nutrition  
in Farming

Science (May 12) prints an address by Dr. E. C. Auchter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, on "The Interrelation of Soils and Plant, Animal and Human Nutrition." Dr. Auchter says in part: "We agricultural scientists have felt a strong responsibility for quantity production in the United States. Surely it is just as much our responsibility to further the production of foods of the highest nutritional quality...One of the most fundamental steps would be a thorough study of our soils from the standpoint of their suitability or unsuitability for the production of certain foods--including the possibility of amending them, if it can and should be done, so that they will give the people who live on them, not just so many pounds of food, but all the complex and subtly balanced nutrients we human beings need. Certainly by this means, general health will be improved and there should be little if any need for adding supplements to the daily diet, except temporarily in certain cases. It may also mean, among other things, that after thorough surveys and investigations certain soil areas may be found inefficient and undesirable for the production of food, although possibly suitable for the production of crops for certain industrial uses or for forests, parks or recreational centers. It may mean that only certain crops should be grown in certain

areas or that it will be necessary to add small quantities of essential but deficient elements in a routine way through fertilizers, irrigation water or sprays to the soil or plants in some areas, so that the people dependent upon the crops in such areas will, automatically and perhaps unknowingly in most cases, have food of high nutritional quality. Any foods shipped from such areas would be equally valuable to consumers everywhere...Here in this realm of nutrition we can get valuable new insights into the true meaning of our work from the standpoint of human well-being. And with new insights will come new objectives."

Federal Range Lands In the Quarterly Journal of Economics (May) Marion Clawson, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, writes on "The Administration of Federal Range Lands." Briefly, the policies he recommends for administration of public range lands are as follows: "(1) In order to protect the land resources on public and private lands most effectively, the concept of commensurability should be retained as a basis for granting permits, but should be modified in three ways. First, commensurate property should be required only when it is essential to the efficient functioning of the ranch operating unit. Second, property submitted as a part of a commensurability rating should be considered with regard to its seasonal usefulness, and accepted only when it is useful in the season needed...Third, lands accepted as commensurate for use in a given way should be used that way or no longer considered as commensurate. (2) The Forest Service and the Division of Grazing should proclaim stability or permanency of permits as one of their goals, as a force contributing to the prosperity of range users... (3) Several regulations adopted in the past might well be abandoned as no longer useful, or as imposing an unnecessary burden on the permittee. Included in this category would be the elimination of the dependency zone, of any residence requirements, and of any land ownership requirement... (4) In order to eliminate or reduce inequality between permittees and non-permittees, as groups, rentals and charges on all classes of land should be revised in such a manner that charges do not exceed the capitalizable value of the forage on any type of range land, and so that grazing fees on public ranges approach the capitalizable income from their use..."

In the same periodical is "The Scale of Agricultural Production in the United States," by J. D. Black, R. H. Allen, and O. A. Nogaard.

"Hall of Youth" The World's Poultry Congress, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, this summer, will be the first one to include a Hall of Youth. In this hall, with its twenty thousand square feet of floor space, young people of this and other countries will show special exhibits of their poultry work, and take part in judging contests, demonstration contests, educational demonstrations, and entertainment programs. (4-H Horizons, May.)

House May 15 Considering bills on the consent calendar, passed the following: S. 90, to provide for punishment of persons transporting stolen animals in interstate commerce (this bill will now be sent to the President); H. R. 3364, to transfer Park Field Military Reservation, Tenn., from the War Department to the Agriculture Department; S. 1281, to prohibit reproductions of official badges, identification cards, and other insignia (this bill will now be sent to the President); H. R. 5380, providing that U. S. employees called for jury service in U. S. courts shall not be paid therefor, but their salaries shall not be diminished on account of such service, and they shall not be charged leave.

The following bills were passed over after brief discussion: H. R. 5911, to amend section 344 (h) of A. A. Act so as to provide that payments to a producer would be on basis of his original allotment even though he released a portion of his allotment to another producer; S. 1096, to extend Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act to Pacific Northwest boxed apples; H. R. 5835, to authorize the President to render closer and more effective the relationship between the American republics; H. J. Res. 247 and 248, providing minimum national allotments for cotton and wheat.

Passed H. R. 6260, War Department civil appropriation bill. A motion to recommit the bill, with instructions to reduce the total by \$50,000,000 was defeated. This bill provides \$3,000,000, to be transferred to this Department, for preliminary examinations and surveys in regard to flood-control projects.

Received supplemental estimates from the President, for salaries and administrative expenses of Electric Home and Farm Authority, Commodity Credit Corporation, and Export-Import Bank of Washington for 1940 (H. Doc. 295); to Com. on Appropriations.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

**Civil Service Examinations**

The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations; No. 50, unassimilated, Consultant in Public Service, \$5,600, Office of Education, Department of the Interior; No. 49, unassimilated, Senior Marketing Specialist (Wool), \$4,600, Marketing Specialist (Wool), \$3,800, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Applications must be on file not later than (a) June 12, if received from States other than those named in (b); (b) June 15, if received from the following States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

**Tests Meat Tenderness**

"Exact standards of meat tenderness are being evolved through the use of a new machine at the Oklahoma A. and M. College that records the exact amount of pressure needed to break meat fibers," says a Science Service report. "The machine was invented by J. A. Beall of the college's animal husbandry department and is constructed with weights and springs to enable pressures to be determined to a close fraction of a pound...Mr. Beall intends to work out tenderness standards, then to determine accurately effect of feeds upon the finished carcass of meat animals."

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 34

Section 1

May 18, 1939

**FREIGHT RATES** Freight rates on livestock currently are the highest ON LIVESTOCK, in 17 years, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. **COTTON, WHEAT** Rates on wheat average the highest since 1934, and on cotton the highest since 1932. The current index relates to the year ending June 30, 1939. For this period it is estimated that rates on livestock will average 163 percent of the base period 1913. This compares with 147 percent in the year ending June 30, 1938. The highest preceding figure was 170 in 1920. The index is an average for beef cattle, hogs and sheep. The current index for wheat is 145 percent of the 1933 period, compared with 140 in the year ended June 30, 1938. The highest for wheat in 18 years was 164 in 1920. The index for cotton is 106 percent of the 1913 period, compared with 102 in the year ended June 30, 1938. The highest index for cotton during the period was 176 in 1921.

**WHEAT, FLOUR FOR EXPORT** Sales of United States wheat and flour for export totaled approximately 109,300,000 bushels from July 1, 1938, to April 30, 1939, of which about 93,600,000 bushels have been exported, the Marketing and Marketing Agreements Division of the Department announces. Of the total sales for export, the sale of approximately 85,000,000 bushels has been assisted by the federal export program. Sales of wheat represent about 80 percent of the 109,300,000 bushels total, and sales of flour about 20 percent. The sales of wheat by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation under the federal program have totaled about 66,800,000 bushels, and an indemnity has been paid on the export of about 18,200,000 bushels of wheat in the form of flour.

**HATCHERY RECORD** Preliminary indications of an April production of hatchery chicks that was the largest for any April of record, and also for any month of record, is confirmed by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its final hatchery report for the month. Reports from 461 hatcheries with a combined capacity of 45,552,000 eggs points to an April production 18 percent larger than that of April last year, 25 percent larger than the April 5-year (1933-1937) average, and 10 percent larger than the previous high record output of April 1936. The increase in April hatchings over those of April last year makes April the seventh consecutive month in which the current hatchings have been larger than those of the corresponding month of the preceding year.

May 18, 1939

Radio for  
Farmers

"The gap between farm and city grows narrower when rural electrification brings radio to the farm," says Rural Electrification News (May). "About two years ago the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System formed a joint committee to study rural radio ownership and use in the United States. The committee studied sample counties all over the land; its report, just published, shows that 69 percent of American rural families owned radio sets (as compared with 91 percent of all urban families). This means that over two-thirds of rural America is really one big suburb for city radio stations. It is significant that 86 percent of REA project members have radios...A radio is usually the first or second electrical appliance bought by project members when they get high-line service. The joint committee survey explains that though country folk had fewer radios than city folk, rural people made up part of the difference by listening more. Country people's average daily use of the radio ranged around 5 hours, while city listeners were tuned in for only about 4 hours daily. The better-off farmers and the better-off small-town people listened more than the less well off. But do rural people listen especially to programs prepared for rural areas? Apparently they don't. Today the air waves bring rural people exactly the same information city people react to..."

United States  
Foreign Service

"Transfer to the State Department of the foreign staffs of the Commerce and Agriculture Departments under President Roosevelt's reorganization plan No. 2 streamlines the American foreign service for a new, enlivened campaign of trade expansion abroad," says Creston B. Mullins in the Washington Star (May 14). Henceforth, the United States Government will present a single, unified front against not only incursions into America's foreign markets by the totalitarian states, but against oppressive governmental regulations which throttle American exportation to many lands. Exchange controls, quotas, barter agreements, all the fantastic evolutions of the depression years, bar the path of American goods into countries which have been, and could again be, excellent markets for American exporters. It is more effectively to break down these barriers and to temper their effect that the Government is doing away with the divisions separating its foreign representatives...All present officers of Foreign Commerce and Agriculture Services will be taken immediately into the Foreign Service of State without examination...Both Commerce and Agriculture Departments will have a voice in determining the fitness of men coming into the service henceforth. An Assistant Secretary of Commerce and one from Agriculture will become members of the Foreign Service Examining Board, and their particular needs will receive consideration in selecting new men for the service. All reporting activities abroad will be in the hands of the State Department officers, but the digesting and dissemination of information within the United States will continue to be carried on by Commerce and Agriculture Departments. Publications of both these departments have proved highly valuable to many branches of American industry and agriculture..."

"Headache  
Powders"

"The unceasing activity of the Government under the new Food and Drug Act is evidenced in recent measures taken to stop the widespread over-the-counter sale of preparations containing bromides and acetanilide," says an editorial in the Virginia Medical Monthly (May). "'B. C. Headache Powders,' 'Bromo-Seltzer' and 'Stanback Headache Powders' are among the preparations alleged to be dangerous and to violate the new law. The seizure of large quantities of these commonly sold 'pain killers' is but the first step in a court procedure in which Federal agents will undoubtedly attempt to show that bromides and acetanilide in the doses recommended in these proprietary preparations are decidedly dangerous. A sufficient number of cases of poisoning can be assembled from any general hospital to prove the Government's position. The medical profession applauds such activities. We only wish they could be multiplied a thousand-fold. The array of patent medicines on shelf and counter which greet the patron of the present day apothecary shop is a continuing affront to scientific medicine and an insult to the ancient art of pharmacy...Annually 360 million dollars are spent in this country for patent medicines, some of them worthless, some of them dangerous, most of them bought in ignorance and, until recently, sold without fear of serious legal restriction."

Tax-Exempt  
Homesteads

"The exemption of homesteads from taxation is a relatively recent development in the United States," says M. H. Satterfield, Tennessee Valley Authority, in the National Municipal Review (May). "...Homesteads in Mississippi are exempt from ad valorem taxes levied by the state for all purposes and from such taxes levied for maintenance and current expenses by counties and all road and school districts, including municipal separate school districts. Homesteads, however, are still subject to all ad valorem taxes levied by municipalities for strictly municipal purposes and to levies of counties, road and school districts, and municipalities for bond and interest payments. In addition to extending homestead exemption to counties and special districts the law increases the amount of the exemption from \$2,500 to \$5,000. In rural areas homesteads may consist of 160 acres provided the land is used strictly for agricultural purposes. If, however, the principal occupation of the owner of a rural home is other than farming, the area that may be exempted is limited to five acres. In municipalities where dwellings are located on land regularly platted in blocks and lots, homesteads are limited to contiguous and adjoining lots. On unplatted lands in municipalities, the area limitations applicable to rural homesteads are effective...Homestead exemption in Mississippi has not been embodied in the constitution. Consequently, if it is found that its benefits do not justify its cost to the state, modifications and amendments can be made by legislative action. The trend, however, has been toward increasing the scope of homestead exemption rather than restricting it..."

Senate  
May 16      The Committee on Interstate Commerce reported with amendments S. 2009, to amend the I.C. Act by extending its application to additional types of carriers and modifying certain provisions thereof (S.Rept 433).

House  
May 16      The Joint Committee Investigating the Tennessee Valley Authority submitted a report (H.Rept. 361).  
(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Designation  
of Vitamins      "The vitamin alphabet, that is, designation of the various vitamins by letter, is going out of style," says Jane Stafford, in a copyright Science Service report. "For example, you must learn to say ascorbic acid instead of Vitamin C when you are referring to the substance which prevents and cures scurvy...Thiamin is the beriberi preventing and curing substance that once went under the name of Vitamin B or B<sub>1</sub>. Nicotinic acid, the stuff that is curing pellagra, is the chemical that was variously called Vitamin B<sub>2</sub>, Vitamin G and the F-F or pellagra preventing factor. Riboflavin is another diet essential that was once labeled Vitamin B or Vitamin G. Recent discoveries have shown that it is necessary for the health of both man and animals. The anti-sterility vitamin, formerly called E, is now known as alpha toco-pherol. Vitamins A and D may keep their letter names for some time, because there is not so much confusion about them as about the B vitamins. Until the chemical composition of other vitamins is discovered, however, scientists favor calling them by descriptive names, not by letters."

New Farm  
Implement      "A new farm implement consisting of a plow, a fertilizer distributor and a subsoiling attachment has been made, which will combine the work of three farm implements," says C. H. Nissley, New Jersey Extension Service, in *Country Gentleman* (June). "A three-horse, short-turn sulky plow, throwing a fourteen-inch furrow, was contributed by a manufacturer. A subsoiling attachment has been added to the rear of this plow, which can be made to penetrate the soil to a depth of 2, 4, 6 or 8 inches below the bottom of the plow furrow. The seat on the plow was removed and a fertilizer hopper placed on the top of the plow, so that an application of either finely pulverized limestone or superphosphate, a combination of the two, or a complete fertilizer, may be made in the bottom of the plow furrow...The purpose of the subsoiling attachment on the plow is to break up the plow sole so that soil moisture may readily move through this area and thereby increase the water-holding capacity of the soil. The purpose of the limestone or fertilizer distributor is to place a layer of either hydrated lime, pulverized limestone or superphosphate in the bottom of the furrow just above the broken-up hardpan. The action of these materials will tend to flocculate this soil and prevent it from returning to its original condition. By placing these materials deep in the soil, they will tend to correct soil acidity, tie up active aluminum which is usually present in very acid soils, and will be a source of calcium, magnesium or phosphorus, so that plant roots may penetrate more deeply into the soil."

# DAILY DIGEST

repared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 35

Section 1

May 19, 1939

**FOOD STAMPS  
CUT PRICES**

Food prices in hundreds of Rochester grocery stores dropped sharply yesterday under the stimulus of the experiment by the Department of Agriculture to move surplus butter, eggs and flour from farms to home relief clients, says a report to the New York Times. More than 3,000 Rochester citizens on relief bought, with the government's aid, quantities of nourishing foods which ordinarily they do without. Corn meal, which was selling on Monday before the plan went into effect at 5 pounds for 36 cents, dropped yesterday in one chain, with 130 stores in the city, to 5 pounds for 16 cents. Dried beans which had sold for 5 cents a pound dropped to 3 cents. A 17-cent package of prunes could be bought for 13 cents. Grapefruit, formerly 5 cents each, were selling yesterday at 3 for 10 cents. A 24 1/2 pound sack of wheat flour which sold last week for 61 cents was priced yesterday at 53 cents. Difficulties in the experiment began to appear. Most of the relief recipients are in debt, it appeared, and much as they would like to buy stamps and get free butter and eggs, they must utilize relief checks to settle debts. Also, interviews revealed that food is one item on which the family can skimp in order to pay such fixed charges as gas and electricity. Minimum value of stamps which must be bought is a drawback. The \$1 minimum for each member of the family is effective for the 1-week period but the purchaser must put up for 2 weeks.

**MARKETING  
RESEARCH**

The average manufacturing firm conducting marketing research activities spends \$21,000 a year for work done within the organization and \$8,000 a year for research purchased from outside agencies, according to a survey of 556 manufacturers released by the Commerce Department yesterday. Of the firms surveyed, 188 were found to be carrying on such activities, chiefly aimed at discovering the potential market for a product or line of goods, comparisons of distribution with competitive products and analysis of the consumer market by sales territories. Secretary Hopkins said that the increasing efficiency of the manufacturing process and the growth of mass production has cast a greater burden on the distribution system and that the application of research to the marketing problems of manufacturers would constitute a valuable aid in increasing sales. (The study, known as Market Research Series No. 21, is available from the Department of Commerce at 25 cents.) (New York Times.)

May 19, 1939

Food Stamp  
Experiment

The Washington Post (May 18) commenting editorially on the food stamp plan, says: "The vegetables and fruit distributed by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation have been a windfall to communities in which local relief funds had been exhausted and the unemployed were in dire distress. However, it is obvious that an organization engaged in the business of supporting prices by removing abnormal surpluses from the market is not in a position to provide adequate or regular aid to the destitute. All it can do is to supplement local resources by giving away such goods as it has on hand. Moreover, this distribution has to be effected with great care to prevent injury to private interests engaged in sales of foodstuffs. The more interest is therefore being taken in an experiment just launched in Rochester (the food stamp plan)...This ingenious scheme is designed to achieve several purposes. In the first place, it shifts to the local stores all the work of distributing surplus commodities. It is also hoped that a larger volume of business may make it possible for the stores to lower prices, thereby facilitating the disposition of surpluses. Another advantage of the system over direct distribution is that it assures a more balanced diet for those on relief...The experiment is interesting in itself. And it will also throw light on the intelligence of the relief clients. For few alert minds will fail to appreciate the value of the offer that is being made to qualified beneficiaries under the Rochester plan."

Grass for  
Silage

In a paper on "Silo Problems Created by Grass Crops" in Agricultural Engineering (May) J. W. Bartlett, New Jersey Experiment Station, says: "Moisture creates an engineering problem for the agricultural engineer and the silo manufacturer. Experience at our station leads us to recommend that the farmer who puts up grass with a moisture content between 70 and 80 percent will most generally be successful in securing a good product, providing he has applied enough preservative...Moisture is directly related to the tonnage of dry matter that may be ensiled. We have a silo which will hold 60 tons of dehydrated hay, 250 tons of corn silage, or 185 tons of mature grass. This year the same silo filled with grass containing 30 percent moisture finally held 330 tons...The New Jersey station is using both molasses and phosphoric acid for a preservative. We have this year used up to 300 pounds of molasses per ton and during the winter feeding season will determine the value of such quantities in the dairy ration with milking animals and growing heifers...Growing heifers may be developed to normal size on a pasture, hay and grass silage diet from the time they are 12 to 15 months of age. However, we get from 10 to 15 percent better growth where from 4 to 6 pounds of hay are used daily in addition to about 36 pounds of grass silage during the winter months...With grass silage and approximately 6 pounds of hay per day, milking cows gained in weight. Grass silage and hay maintained high color and a fine flavor in milk. To date, however, we cannot recommend the use of grass silage as the entire roughage diet for the milking cow or the growing heifer if we are to get maximum results..."

Farm Cold Storage Unit      "Newest addition to the fast-developing array of fruit farm cold storage equipment is a unit combining all the essentials of a modern refrigeration system," says American Fruit Grower (May). "Through use of simple fittings the units can be rapidly installed in a fruit storage room. They were originally designed for air conditioning, but models are adapted to meet the demand of specialized farm installations. Available in sizes to meet most fruit storage needs, the units are so constructed that they may be controlled by one switch that sets temperature desired. Although these unit conditioners have a variety of parts, all mechanism is fitted into the metal cabinet."

Contours and Terraces in Orchards      John T. Bregger, Soil Conservation Service, in Soil Conservation (May) discusses contour planting and terracing as a basis for soil and water conservation in orchards, saying in part: "Although no accurate survey has been made over the United States, the present area of contour fruit plantings is close to 40,000 acres...Because of the far-reaching importance of the orchard and vineyard erosion problem and the widespread application of contour planting and terracing in meeting this problem, there is a real demand for some fundamental research along this line. For one thing, the moisture relationships of terraces of different sizes and profiles should be studied from the standpoint of where the trees should be planted, where a cover crop will offer less competition under these conditions, etc. There may also be differences in fertilizer requirements, where all that is put on is conserved for the use of the trees. There should be data on the effectiveness of contour planting and terracing in increasing fruit production. Another problem is the effect of noncultivated terrace ridges or down slopes on the curculio and rodent problems. Studies touching some of these problems are under way at the Hammondsport, New York, Soil and Water Conservation Experiment Station...and by the SCS in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Experiment Station..."

"Western Frozen Foods"      A new frozen foods publication is Western Frozen Foods, of which the Department Library has just received the first two issues (February and March). The leading article in the March issue is "Selling Quick-Frozen Ready-to-Cook Poultry" by Rob R. Slocum, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Two-Wheel Barrow      The old wheelbarrow has a compact competitor in a new, deep-bodied, two-wheeled carrier now on the market. The lines of this barrow cut down its over-all size and at the same time give it a full 2 1/2 bushel capacity. The small wheels have rubber tires and roller bearings. (Country Home Magazine, June.)

Senate May 17 Defeated S. 1100, to provide for completion of the Florida ship canal by a vote of 36 to 45.

The Committee on Judiciary reported with amendment S. 915, to provide for the most expeditious settlement of disputes with the United States (S. Rept. 442).

The Committee on Appropriations reported with amendments H.R. 6149, Navy Department appropriation bill (S.Rept. 443).

House May 17 Began debate on H.R. 6264, authorizing construction, repair and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors.

The Committee on Territories reported without amendment H.R. 161, authorizing the Commissioner of public lands of Hawaii to sell such land for cash to citizens who possess the qualifications of homesteaders and who have received loans under the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act (H.Rept. 641).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Spring Pigs, Beef Cattle The increased number of sows farrowing this spring compared with a year ago is expected to more than offset reported losses of spring pigs in some areas, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics says. Though the average number of pigs saved per litter may be smaller than the record high for last year, "spring production probably will be considerably larger than in 1938." Prospects for the fall pig crop this year will be influenced by the present relationship between hog prices and corn prices, which now is favorable to hog production. With abundant feed supplies more pigs may be farrowed this fall than last, which would mean materially greater slaughter supplies of hogs for the 1939-40 marketing season than in the current season. In its beef cattle report, the bureau said that numbers of cattle for slaughter are expected to continue smaller this year than last, unless drought occurs. In parts of Texas and California and in local areas of other western states, the bureau said that the lack of rainfall had definitely reduced prospects for range and pasture conditions. This has resulted in some local increases in cattle marketings. At the present time, however, there is a tendency throughout the country to hold a large proportion of breeding stock on farms in order to increase herds.

Hay Rake and Baler "Winning hayway combination on more farms each year is the side-delivery rake to turn the hay into windrows, and the pick-up baler to bale the hay directly from the windrow," says the Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife (June). "The side-delivery rake turns the butts out and the leaves in so that the leaves are protected from too rapid drying. The pick-up baler puts the hay in bales without loss of the most valuable part of the hay. With this method, the hay is... cured as if it were going into the barn without baling. The bales are made loose and usually stored with air spaces between them in the haymow..."

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 36

Section 1

May 22, 1939

## FOREIGN TRADE POLICIES

Pacific intercourse is still the ideal of most of the world and is the "dominant purpose of the foreign policy of the United States," President Roosevelt declared yesterday, in connection with the opening of Foreign Trade Week. The President noted that "almost 50 percent" of United States foreign trade was now carried out with countries with which trade agreements had been concluded and asserted that this country must import as well as export in increasing foreign trade. He called for further extension of the reciprocal trade program.

Secretary Hull declared that the "span" of trade agreements signified that a large number of nations were now "actively cooperating with the United States in a policy of trade liberalization." He asserted that a larger volume of foreign trade was likely as a result of the scaling down of artificial trade barriers and attacked the isolationist viewpoint with regard to foreign trade.

Stable and lasting world peace can be built <sup>only</sup> upon a world trade unhampered by excessive barriers and restrictions, Francis B. Sayre, Assistant Secretary of State, declared yesterday in helping dedicate the World Trade Center at the New York World's Fair. The center is intended to serve as headquarters for visiting trade groups, for whom special programs will be given. (New York Times.)

## STATE LAND CONDEMNATION

Federal Judge John Knight has upheld the Federal Government's right to condemn lands without the consent of the state for flood control and wildlife projects, says a Buffalo (New York) <sup>and</sup> report by the Associated Press. Acquisition of two tracts in Allegany <sup>and</sup> Schuyler Counties was contested by the state in a case which, according to Federal District Attorney George Grobe, was an exact parallel to a controversy in Vermont. The Federal Government abandoned its action in Vermont. Judge Knight said: "Congress has declared these projects in the public interest and not only is a presumption to be made in favor of the legality of its acts, but any doubt of validity must be resolved in its favor."

## GRAIN RATES

Freight rates on grain reshipped from Chicago, St. Louis and Peoria, Ill., for export from the eastern seaboard will be reduced 4 cents a hundredweight from June 20 to November 30, J. S. Brown, manager of the Chicago Board of Trade's transportation department, has announced. The low rates will apply on wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley. (A.P.).

May 22, 1939

Artificial Breeding      Under the title, "Science Helps the Sire," Hugh C. McPhee, chief of the animal husbandry division of the Department, discusses artificial insemination in *Country Gentleman* (June). He says in part: "The ideal way for a farmer to benefit from this program is to join a breeding ring. There are thousands of small livestock breeders who already belong to such rings; for them the problem is somewhat simplified. And there is ample evidence that increasing numbers of these circles are seriously considering the incorporation of artificial insemination into their livestock-improvement plans. The Farm Security Administration numbers some 2,364 breeding circles among its clients, many of which are ready to embark on a program of artificial insemination... In order to help groups of livestock breeders who desire to form breeding associations in which artificial insemination will be used, a model constitution and a set of by-laws together with various suggestions and cautions has been drawn up by the Bureaus of Dairy and Animal Industry, the Extension Service and the Farm Security Administration. Of special interest are the suggested fees: bull, \$2 to \$5; jack, \$8 to \$10; stallion, \$8 to \$10; boar, \$1 to \$1.50; ram, \$1." He cautions: "The farmer does not know enough about the method to be able to distinguish between the practitioner who has merely read a bulletin and the really well-trained technician... All eyes seem to be turned on the method and too little attention is being given to finding something for the method to use;" and adds: "We do not want more average animals in this country. We want more superior animals. The method is not going to bring these superior animals into being except as it is used as a conveyor of the germ plasm which contains the necessary potentialities to do the trick... When we find the proved sires we can take them and the method and go places."

Calomel as Insecticide      Dosing cabbage maggots with calomel applied in a suspension around the young plants, as a dust, or as a coating on the seed, has distinct advantages over most other methods yet devised for combating this troublesome pest, according to Dr. Hugh Glasgow, entomologist at the New York Experiment Station (Geneva). The insecticidal properties of calomel were discovered largely by accident a number of years ago in some tests at the station in which all of the salts of mercury were included as a matter of routine, explains Dr. Glasgow. Such striking control of the root maggot was obtained on the calomel plot, however, that it was made the subject of careful tests, with the result that it was found to have some decided advantages over corrosive sublimate, the standard treatment, although no more effective than the latter in controlling cabbage maggot. One of the chief advantages that calomel possesses is that there is little danger of injury to tender young plants from its use, whereas corrosive sublimate must be used in a fairly dilute solution and even then may cause injury to cauliflower and radish seedlings. Corrosive sublimate is also suspected of delaying the harvesting date of early cabbage and cauliflower. Because it can be used in heavier dosages, calomel generally does not need to be applied as often. (*Scientific American*, June.)

**Botanical Articles** Morgan W. Evans, Bureau of Plant Industry and Ohio Experiment Station, writes in the Journal of Botany (April) on the relation of latitude to certain phases of the growth of timothy. He says in part in the summary: "The time of heading, blooming and maturing is determined largely by the temperatures and by the lengths of day. Late selections require longer days than early ones for the production of clumps and inflorescences. For the earliest selections, the season for blooming progressed from south to north. For the latest selections, blooming occurred first at some mid-latitude; from this latitude, the season for blooming progressed both toward the North as the temperatures became suitable for growth and toward the South as the number of hours of daily illumination gradually increased."

In the same periodical L. L. Harter, Bureau of Plant Industry, writes on the influence of light on the length of the conidia in certain species of *Fusarium*.

Messrs. Beath, Gilbert and Eppson, of the Wyoming Experiment Station, are authors of an article on selenium research at the station. They report that certain native selenium bearing plants may be used as indicators in locating seleniferous soils. These plants, they say, are now known to occur in parts of Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

**Irradiator for Milk** A new process for irradiating milk, which is believed to make it more valuable in that it increases health value, was recently announced by research workers at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, says a Madison report in the American Produce Review (May 17). The new irradiator, designed by H. H. Beck, H. C. Jackson and K. G. Weckel, uses a carbon arc and is capable of 50 to 100 percent greater capacity than present models. It also imports 50 to 200 percent greater Vitamin D potency to milk. By increasing the wattage across the arc a greater intensity of radiation and greater efficiency in the irradiation process is achieved.

**Carbon Dioxide for Strawberries** A note in the American Fruit Grower (May) reports that in Louisiana "dry ice" stations have been established at Ponchatoula and Hammond, and that strawberries shipped from these points are going to market in refrigerator cars cooled with this combination. "A saving of 25 to 40 percent in refrigeration costs is reported by this method of cooling perishable shipments," says the item. "The car moves to destination without stoppage in transit for re-icing. Leaving Louisiana in the "early run" a car will arrive in New York City for the third day 3 a.m. market. Where dry ice is employed the car can be precooled or not. The gas resulting from evaporation benefits keeping quality of the fruit, it is claimed."

Senate Passed H.R. 6149, Navy appropriation bill. As passed May 18 the Senate, this bill contains a provision prohibiting the Navy from purchasing food not grown in the United States or its possessions, except foods of which there is a deficient domestic supply.

The Select Committee on Government Organization reported without amendment S.J.Res. 138, providing that reorganization plans Nos. I and II shall take effect on July 1, 1939.

Received from the Acting Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps a draft of proposed legislation amending the CCC Act (regarding blood transfusions, lifesaving, fire fighting, etc.); to Com. on Education and Labor.

House Passed H.R. 6264, authorizing the construction, repair May 18 and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors.

Began debate on H.R. 6392, State, Justice and Commerce appropriation bill.

Senate Considering bills on the calendar, passed the following: May 19 S. 1879, to amend the mining laws applicable to the watershed of the Bonito River in Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico; H.R. 2378, to prohibit exportation of tobacco seed and plants except for experiment (this bill will now be sent to the President); S. 1904, providing that no person who is otherwise qualified for examination or appointment or promotion in the civil service shall be discriminated against because of his age; S.J.Res. 138, providing that reorganization plans Nos. I and II shall take effect July 1, 1939.

Committee on Appropriations reported with amendments H.R. 5427, Labor Department appropriation bill (S.Rept. 455).

Recessed until Monday, May 22.

House Passed H.R. 6392, State, Justice and Commerce Departments May 19 appropriation bill. McMillan amendment providing \$225,000 for carrying out reciprocal trade agreements program was agreed to. Hull amendment prohibiting purchase of oleomargarine or other butter substitutes in federal prisons was rejected. Hawks amendment to recomment the bill with instructions to add a provision prohibiting use of funds, appropriated in this bill, for purchase of foreign competitive agricultural products, was defeated.

Concurred in Senate amendments to H.R. 6149, Navy appropriation bill (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Adjourned until Monday, May 22.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Rural Welfare The Survey Midmonthly (May) contains the following articles: This Rural Social Work, by Carol L. Shafer; The County Worker's Job, by Josephine Strode; The Food Stamp Plan.

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture  
to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views  
and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 37

Section 1

May 23, 1939

**NICARAGUAN  
AGREEMENT**

President Roosevelt backed up his Pan-American good neighbor policy yesterday by an agreement with General Anastasio Somoza, President of Nicaragua, setting forth a program of financial, commercial and military assistance. Nicaragua undertakes to encourage the investment of American capital and technical knowledge and to provide adequate dollar exchange to holders of its customs bonds of 1918. In return, President Roosevelt agrees, among other things: To send to Nicaragua a board of army engineers and an officer of its medical corps to study the feasibility of a trans-Nicaraguan waterway; to set up credits of as much as \$2,000,000 through the Export-Import Bank for the purchase in this country of machinery and equipment "for the construction of highways and other productive projects"; to make available through the bank a revolving fund up to \$500,000 to bridge seasonal deficiencies in export collections and prevent fluctuation of its currency in foreign exchange; to consider the loan of American agricultural experts for the study and development of non-competitive agricultural products such as manila hemp and rubber to complement production in the United States. (New York Times.)

**CHICAGO EGG  
RECEIPTS**

Egg receipts in Chicago yesterday were the heaviest in ten years, totaling 1,719,330 dozens. Influenced by the unsettled state of the flooded cash market, egg futures closed unchanged to 17 points lower with the current month showing the maximum decline at 17.25 cents. Octobers finished 11 points lower at 18.57 after slumping 22 points from an early extreme of 18.72 cents. Traders said short-covering prompted by the Government's interest in the level of egg prices checked the decline. In New York a trade cooperative again bid 16 1/4 cents unsuccessfully for eggs grading firsts. (A.P.).

**U.S. EXPORTS  
TO RUSSIA**

United States exports to Soviet Russia in 1938 were larger than in any year since 1931, and far in excess of the minimum fixed by the commercial agreement between the two countries, the Department of Commerce reported yesterday in connection with Foreign Trade Week. Exports to Russia were valued at \$69,691,000 in 1938, as compared with \$42,892,000 in 1937. Imports from the U.S.S.R. last year were \$24,064,000, compared with \$30,768,000 in 1937. (Press.)

May 23, 1939

Cotton Plane Col. Simon B. Buckner, Jr., commandant at Fort Mc-  
Runways Clellan (Ala.) said recently that experimental cotton-  
paved runways at Reilly Field had proved superior to both  
ordinary asphalt and concrete runways, according to an Associated Press  
report in the New Orleans <sup>Frigate</sup> Times (May 10). The fabric-paved runways were  
laid last summer as an experiment by United States army aviation experts,  
and have been tested through the extremities of summer and winter weather.  
Use of cotton, aviation experts said, prevents lesions and wavos in the  
asphalt. Concrete runways are more expensive, inclined to crack and lack  
the resiliency of asphalt, army men advised. Colonel Buckner said the  
fabric-knitted runways had failed to crack in winter cold and rain, and  
were sturdier in summer. They were tested under heavy bombing planes  
from Maxwell Field, Montgomery.

Texas Soil "Recent passage of the Texas Soil Conservation Act  
Conservation is a milestone in the state's history of agricultural pro-  
Legislation gress," says Victor H. Schoffelmayer, Agricultural Editor,  
in the Dallas Morning News (May 10). "...For the first  
time in Texas history will it be possible for farmowners to make use of  
the various federal, state and private agencies in one co-ordinated land  
use program and prevent abuse of soil. District or regional control  
measures assure that the program can be adjusted to meet all conditions  
of terrain, climate or soil. There need be no costly experimentation,  
because farmers will have at their disposal the experience assembled in  
all parts of Texas and the nation during the past six years or longer  
under conditions of drouth, floods and normal seasons. All the vast  
scientific and practical knowledge developed by soil scientists and prac-  
tical farmers, all the store of technical information of our excellent  
experiment stations, all the working practice of county agents and teach-  
ers of vocational agriculture in every county of Texas, can now be put  
into a huge general program of saving the soil... There will be five great  
state districts in accordance with the major geographical, climatic and  
soil areas of Texas, containing fifty-one counties each, excepting one  
which will contain fifty. In these districts there will be set up many  
local soil conservation units as part of larger groups, all in co-opera-  
tion with each other along the general principles of land treatment ac-  
cording to the needs of the watershed of the area involved..."

Farm Cash American farmers received a cash income of \$553,000,-  
Income 000 from sale of products and Government benefit payments  
in April, the Agriculture Department estimates. This  
brought the total farm income for the first four months of the year to  
\$2,240,000,000, compared with \$2,227,000,000 in the like period last year.  
Included in the April income was \$90,000,000 in Government subsidies.  
Similar payments for the January-April period totaled \$282,000,000 com-  
pared with \$168,000,000 in the similar period last year. The April in-  
come was \$29,000,000 less than that for March, but \$5,000,000 more than  
received in April last year. (Associated Press).

Oat Mill  
Feed for  
Livestock

Reporting on tests with oat mill feed at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, G. Bohstedt, of the station, says in *Country Gentleman* (June): "Nearly 6,000 horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and hogs were used in these tests. For mature work horses oat mill feed has proved worth the same as timothy hay. Sows that were fed oat mill feed farrowed litters that were as thrifty as those of sows fed excellent control rations. Fattening lambs yielded best returns for oat mill feed when this was used to replace hay rather than grain in their rations. Fattening steer rations in which from 15 to 30 percent of the corn was replaced by oat mill feed, produced satisfactory gains and finish. In dairy rations oat mill feed was found worth 65 percent as much as wheat bran. Replacing one half or all of the hay in rations of milking cows, oat mill feed was found worth 78 percent as much as alfalfa hay and 96 percent as much as timothy hay. These feeding trials also have shown that oat mill feed had a feed value of 30 to 40 percent as much as ground corn or hominy feed. While some livestock classes have given lower values than these, dry-lot pigs and milking cows have given values up to 50 percent of the value of ground corn or hominy feed. As a result of these investigations, the guesswork has been largely taken out of the feeding of oat mill feed..."

Wheat Loan  
Program

Secretary Wallace announced recently the Government would offer farmers loans on 1939-grown wheat at rates designed to assure them harvest-time returns about equal to prices now being quoted on the cash grain markets. The loans will be made by the Commodity Credit Corporation under authority of the 1938 Crop Control Act. Eligible for loans will be producers who cooperated with this year's Agricultural Adjustment Administration program by planting within their wheat acreage allotments. Department officials said on a similar program last year loans amounting to \$49,375,297 were made on 85,742,449 bushels. The 1939 rates were said to be between 75 and 80 percent of the average price received by farmers for their wheat during the past 10 years. The program set up a schedule of basic rates for wheat stored in elevators at principal grain terminal markets. (A.P.)

## Construction

An eight-year record for new construction was established last month when building and engineering awards in the thirty-seven Eastern States amounted to \$330,030,000.

This was the highest volume for any April since 1931 and represents an increase of 49 percent over April, 1938, and a gain of 10 percent over the record for March, 1939. Awards last month brought the total for the first four months of this year to \$1,102,561,000, as compared with \$760,110,000 for the corresponding period last year--an increase of 45 percent--according to the F. W. Dodge Corporation. This also is the largest total for any similar period since 1931, when the corresponding figure was \$1,170,267,000. (Press.)

Washington  
Arboretum

"Although the Washington Arboretum at Seattle has been established for less than three years it is producing results that are attracting the attention of both layman and scientist," says J. B. F. in *Science* (May 19). "Thousands of plants have been propagated that are now being placed in permanent locations on the grounds where they will be kept under observation for developments of scientific and educational value. A significant accomplishment has been the transfer, in one year, of alpine and subalpine plants from their natural altitudes to sea level with no loss of vigor and with no apparent change in character. Three notable instances of successful transfer were *Campanula piperi*, a miniature evergreen member of the Campanulaceae; *Lewisia tweedyi*, the largest and most beautiful of the Lewisia tribe, and *Douglasia dentata*, a rose-colored evergreen member of the Primulaceae. The domestication of these three little known but valuable plants will be a distinct addition to the small list of strictly alpine plants now in use, but the real significance of the accomplishment was that the successful transfer of these difficult plants from altitudes of 7,000 feet or more down to sea level without loss of time was an encouraging indication that in this far western arboretum the development of plant life can be carried to points hitherto unknown...With a plan of organization similar to the one used at the Arnold Arboretum and the purpose of collecting all reliable information on plant life of educational or scientific value;... this latest addition to the facilities for scientific research should become one of the leading institutions of its kind in the world."

1938 Dairy  
Products

"Milk production in 1938 reached a new peak about 4 percent higher than in 1937, and 2 percent above the preceding high in 1933," says E. E. Vial in the *Agricultural Situation* (May). "The per capita production of milk in 1938 of 845 pounds was somewhat less than in the period 1931-33 but 3 percent larger than the 1924-29 average. Total consumption of all dairy products in 1938 was slightly larger than in 1937 but somewhat low in relation to production. Consumption of fluid milk and cream in 1938 was probably somewhat less than in 1937...With total milk production higher than a year earlier, and with some tendency for fluid consumption to decline, the total production of manufactured dairy products in 1938 reached a new peak, about 7 percent higher than a year earlier, and 17 percent above the 1924-29 average. Production per capita was the highest in more than 40 years and 5 percent above the average for the predepression period 1924-29. Consumption of manufactured dairy products per capita in 1938 was slightly higher than a year earlier and 2 percent greater than the 1924-29 average. Creamery butter production in 1938 was estimated to be 10 percent larger than in 1937, and slightly larger than the preceding peak in 1933...Per capita production of butter in 1938 was the same as the average for the predepression period 1924-29. Consumption per capita however was 3 percent less than the 1924-29 average. Total cheese production in 1938 was 10 percent larger than in 1937 and 50 percent larger than the 1924-29 average. Per capita consumption of cheese in 1938 of 5.75 pounds compares with 4.60 pounds in the period 1924-29..."

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 38

Section 1

May 24, 1939

**BUSINESS RECOVERY** In line with President Roosevelt's plea day before yesterday for "cooperation" from business, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace yesterday declared that, despite the "timidity of capital" to invest for recovery, he believed that, international affairs permitting, "we are going to do more business." The Secretary told the American Retail Federation that "farmers would like to see businessmen taking a chance again...The time to invest money is when business recovery is just starting," he said, "not when a boom bubble is ready to burst." "If we are to have the measure of recovery we seek," he declared, "capital investment must be made either by private business or by government, or by private business with the aid of government. That is the heart of the problem of recovery." Secretary Wallace said that for ten years "capital has been shell shocked as a result of the exploding of the boom of the 20's." Under ordinary circumstances, he said, business would have recovered by this time. "But the general world picture," he said, "with war alarms being sounded in Europe almost every week, has generated a new set of fears." (Washington Star.)

**BANKING REVISION** Virtual revision of the entire system of capital financing in the United States, involving the establishment of a public works finance corporation to finance federal and local government public works of a self-liquidating character, government-insured loans to small business men and establishment of "capital credit banks" to provide capital at flexible interest rates, was proposed to the Temporary National Economic Committee yesterday by A. A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State. The recommendations were described as a "modern financial tool kit" which would enable "our financial system to do what is expected of it." That it had failed to function satisfactorily, Mr. Berle testified. (New York Times.)

**APPLIANCES FOR FARMS** In order to give further aid to small business, the Electric Home and Farm Authority will extend its service to include the purchase of installment contracts covering gas appliances for domestic use, it was announced yesterday by Jesse H. Jones, Reconstruction Finance Corporation chairman. As of April 20, the agency had purchased 115,565 installment contracts covering electrical appliances from 2,947 dealers in 33 states at an outlay of \$17,566,391.44. Of this sum \$9,103,889.10 has been repaid. (Press.)

May 24, 1939

Fruits for D. G. Sorber, Bureau Chemistry and Soils (Los Angeles) Ice Cream writes in Ice Cream Field (May) on fruit products in ice cream and sherbets. In conclusion, he says: "The natural fresh fruit flavor and color of fully ripened fruit can be preserved to a very high degree. The method of preparation and preservation is quite simple. It consists of reducing the fruit to a pulp or puree, adding a predetermined amount of sugar or sirup, packaging in tight containers, and freezing rapidly enough to prevent deterioration by enzyme activity or the growth of micro-organisms. The amount of sugar or sirup required depends upon the use to be made of the product. This type of material can be defrosted and used to advantage as a flavor base for ice cream, sherbets and milk shakes. When frozen very rapidly, it produces a delicious frozen dessert, possessing the natural flavor and color of the fresh fruit with a pleasingly smooth texture. Crushed or chopped fruits prepared and preserved in this way can be defrosted and used as a sundae topping. Such a topping is equal in every way to that made from fresh fruit."

Veterinary The meat-packing industry of the United States produces for human consumption "the best and safest meat and meat products to be found anywhere in the world," Dr. Cassius Way, president-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association, said in dedicating the veterinary science exhibit at the New York World's Fair. Dr. Way introduced as guest of honor Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, who outlined the role of veterinary medicine in the protection of human health. The veterinarian protecting the health of animals, he said, guards the human race to a material degree against tuberculosis, rabies, anthrax and similar infections. The science, he added, has made material contributions to the conquest of parasitic diseases of man as well as of animals, to the production of glandular extracts used in human medicine and to the adequacy of the national food supply, besides assuming the fundamental responsibility for milk and meat inspection. (New York Times.)

North Central Operators of 74 percent of all the farms in the ten AAA Program North Central States, a total of 1,620,424 farmers, have indicated their intention of participating in the 1939 farm program, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration announces. This was about 470,000 more farms in this area than participated in the 1938 program, it added, and includes 83 percent of the total crop land in the region. (Press.)

Rural Sales The Commerce Department has reported that daily average sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas for April were about 11 percent above April, 1938, and 4.5 percent above March, 1939. (A.P.)

Hybrid Corn  
Economics

In the Journal of Farm Economics (May) A. A. Dowell and O. B. Jesness, of the University of Minnesota, contribute a paper on "Economic Aspects of Hybrid Corn".

"Unless new markets develop," they say in part, "it does not seem probable that the market can absorb the increased supply which the present acreage is capable of producing when hybrid seed is used, except at materially lower prices. The effect, therefore, depends to an important degree on whether acreage is maintained or curtailed and the extent of curtailment, if any. Markets now available for crops which might be substituted for corn on part of the acreage do not offer much promise of shifts to them. Some shift to soil conserving crops may take place but this in turn will affect the production of livestock and livestock products with consequent repercussions in the markets. In a sense increasing the acre yields is equivalent to providing more land for the farmer and this should enable him to farm more extensively. However, his labor and equipment are still available for application to the land. Some farmers may dispense with labor now hired or take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy more leisure. However, many others will continue to employ the factors of production available to them as fully as possible. The fact that hybrid corn lowers unit costs of production and the limited opportunities for other uses of the land, labor and equipment, suggest that drastic curtailment of corn acreage in the near future by individual action of the growers is unlikely. The prospects are that under these circumstances the gains from hybrid corn will be shared with the consumers rather promptly in the form of lower prices, particularly on livestock and its products. The rate and amount of improvement in conditions affecting demand for farm products will have an important effect on the results. The extent to which foreign outlets, especially for lard and pork, will be expanded is another important factor."

In the same periodical are an article on economic classification of nonurban land according to its best uses, by David Weeks and J. R. Josephson, of the University of California, and two notes by members of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, one by C. L. Holmes on types of farming research and one by Malcolm Clough on the relation between corn and wheat futures.

Haying  
Machines

A new model field baler picks up hay from the windrow, bales it, and delivers the bales to a trailer. In a field test, three men with a two-plow tractor compressed 27 tons of alfalfa into 650 bales of hay in exactly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours. And it was top-quality hay. Few leaves were lost and the original color, pliable stems and appetizing aroma were retained. Another field machine that picks up windrows chops the hay and blows it into a wagon. In a test, this machine, hitched to a 3-plow tractor, picked up  $1\frac{1}{4}$  tons of dry hay and chopped it into  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch lengths in just 7 minutes. It does a fast job of handling green hay, too. (The Country Home Magazine, June.)

May 24, 1939

Senate Passed as reported H. R. 5427, Labor Department  
May 22 appropriation bill.

Began debate on S. 2009, to amend the Interstate Commerce Act by extending its application to additional types of carriers and transportation and modifying certain provisions thereof.

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment: H. R. 913, to prohibit the unauthorized use of the name or insignia of the 4-H clubs (S. Rept. 459); H. R. 3646, to authorize certain officers and employees to administer oaths to expense accounts (S. Rept. 460); H. J. Res. 188, authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to designate the Director of Finance to sign requisitions upon the Secretary of the Treasury for disbursing funds (S. Rept. 461); H. J. Res. 189, to define the status of the Under Secretary of Agriculture (S. Rept. 462); S. 1031, to amend the act of June 15, 1935, relating to the marking of packages containing wild animals and birds and parts thereof (S. Rept. 456).

The same committee reported with amendment: S. 229, to authorize the withdrawal of national forest lands for the protection of watersheds from which water is obtained for municipalities (S. Rept. 457).

House May 22 Passed the following bills: H. J. Res. 248, to provide that the national acreage allotment for wheat for any year shall be not less than 55,000,000 acres (an amendment by Mr. Case of S. D., to make the minimum allotment 60,000,000 acres, was rejected by a vote of 39 to 63); H. J. Res. 247, to provide that the national allotment for cotton for any year after 1939 shall not be less than 11,500,000 bales (an amendment by Mr. Hare, providing that acreage allotment to States "be based upon the ratio of the number of cotton growers and their dependents in each State bears to the total number of such persons in the United States," was ruled out of order after debate); H. R. 5498, extending to subsequent years the cotton county acreage allotments provisions which apply for 1939; S. 1096, to extend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 to Pacific Northwest boxed apples; H. R. 4539, to extend the time during which orders and marketing agreements under the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act may be applicable to hops.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance).

Pump for A small amount of rainfall may make better grades  
Truck Crops for an entire crop, or save the crop entirely; hence fruit  
growers and truck-crop farmers are constantly seeking in-  
surance against fickle weather. At the Michigan State College interest-  
ing results are being obtained with a 2-stage, centrifugal pump capable  
of delivering 200 gallons per minute at a pressure of 200 pounds when  
driven at 2,400 revolutions per minute. With an adequate water supply  
and equipped with a revolving nozzle, this pump is expected to lay down  
an inch of water overnight on 6 acres. (Successful Farming, June.)

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 39

Section 1

May 25, 1939

**CATTLE THEFT** Because it would "definitely encroach on the police power of the several states" and cost about \$200,000 a year to enforce, President Roosevelt vetoed a bill yesterday making it a federal offense to transport stolen animals in interstate commerce. While sympathetic to the objective of the measure, the President argued that it would lead logically to the extension of the federal jurisdiction to all other forms of stolen property of relatively low value and constitute as crimes minor thefts which now are considered only as misdemeanors. (New York Times.)

**PAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved yesterday a bill by Chairman Fittman of Nevada, authorizing cooperation between this government and 21 South American nations in certain civil activities. The bill would authorize this government to carry out projects in accordance with treaties, resolutions, declarations and recommendations at the inter-American conference for the maintenance of peace in Buenos Aires in 1936 and the international conference of American states at Lima in 1938. (A.P.).

**WHEAT, COTTON MARKETS UP** Wheat shot up  $3 \frac{1}{8}$  cents to new season highs yesterday as fear of crop damage stirred trade estimated to have been the heaviest since last summer, says an Associated Press report from Chicago. The advance was the sharpest in months. All contracts surged to new highs, wheat for July delivery reaching 78, up  $2 \frac{5}{8}$ ; September 77  $7 \frac{1}{8}$ , up  $2 \frac{7}{8}$ ; and December 78  $3 \frac{1}{4}$ , up  $3 \frac{1}{8}$ . New season highs also were established at Kansas City and Minneapolis.

Prices on the New York Cotton Exchange advanced sharply yesterday under the broadest trading in some time and ended with net gains of 8 to 13 points. October contracts sold 10 points above the previous high record of the season, made on October 24 last year, while a gain of \$1 a bale carried the December toward the 8-cent level. (New York Times.)

**RECORD BANK DEPOSITS** Comptroller of the Currency Delano announced yesterday that the total assets and deposits of national banks in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands on March 29, the date of the last call for condition reports, were greater than on any previous call date in the history of the National Banking System. The total assets of the 5,218 active banks were \$31,844,396,000, an increase of \$178,219,000 over the amount reported by 5,230 active banks on December 31, 1938. (Press.)

Cotton Use  
Promotion

"This is National Cotton Week, during which tens of thousands of merchants and manufacturers will exert themselves to promote the greater use of cotton products of every kind," says an editorial in the Wall Street Journal (May 23). "There need be no pretense that such a movement will quickly 'solve' the problem created by the production in recent years of much more cotton that we have used at home and exported, but it is the simplest of common sense to use freely what we have in abundance. It is, moreover, a practical certainty that the effects of these annual promotional campaigns will be cumulative, that by endeavoring to use more cotton we shall learn to use more of it, to our common advantage; that rising volume will permit selling finished goods at prices either actually or relatively lower. Our capacity to consume cotton, or any other commodity, is bound to be more or less closely related to what we now habitually refer to as the national income, the comparative level of general prosperity, and since our per capita consumption of cotton is already far above the world average it must be supposed that the amount of it going into domestic use will increase only slowly, no matter how skilfully or vigorously we push our promotional campaigns, unless the national income in terms of goods should rise much more rapidly than it appears likely to do. It follows that despite our best efforts at increasing domestic use the cotton South must still need, and need badly, the reopening to it of the foreign market..."

Cooperative  
Vaccination

An editorial in the North American Veterinarian (June) discusses a county plan in Illinois for vaccinating horses against encephalomyelitis with chick embryo vaccine. "The cost of administering this vaccine to horses varies considerably under different circumstances," it says. "In Iowa, for example, there averages 4 head of horses for each farm and the average mileage covered by Iowa veterinarians in responding to calls is 5 miles the visit. Unless horses are systematically grouped for vaccination it may be said, therefore, that when only 4 head of horses are vaccinated at one time, even when those may be found at one place and treated without undue delay, the veterinarian receives \$5.20 for his services after having paid \$4.80 for the vaccine. Since this \$5.20 represents a fee for services rendered at 2 visits, the gross receipts are \$2.68 each. After deducting the costs that are properly to be charged against overhead, including credit losses and giving consideration to the responsibility assumed, it is obvious that practitioners cannot possibly afford to do this equine vaccination for \$2.50 for each animal vaccinated unless animals are systematically grouped. A survey made by the secretary of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association inquiring what Iowa veterinarians planned to charge for two doses of chick vaccine yielded 275 replies. Computed from these replies, the average fee in Iowa would be \$2.9377 the head."

May 25, 1939

Aerial Mapping      Bruce W. Minor, in a short article, "Seen From Above," in New England Homestead (May 20) says that "practically all of the farm land in Aroostook County (Me.) has been photographed from the air, and large-scale enlargements have been prepared showing every building, field, and physical feature on some 6800 farms. So accurate are these maps that they can be used to check areas and performance under the agricultural conservation program. Areas of individual fields may be determined from these maps at decidedly lower cost than by other means, and with the same accuracy... These maps, which have already been made for a large part of the nation's farm land, will have many uses other than in the agricultural conservation program. They can be used with stereoscopic machines which show the third dimension, that is, relief or height above sea level. Topographic maps can thus be prepared, and these are necessities in planning many types of public works and highways. The aerial survey maps will be valuable to many branches of government. Individual farm maps prepared from the survey maps will be available to Aroostook county farmers this year, thus giving the farmer a working map of his farm without the necessity of an expensive survey of the farm."

Egg Shell Improvement      "Eggs with clean, smooth, strong shells sell for better prices and, in general, hatch best," says Harry W. Titus, National Agricultural Research Center, in Country Gentleman (June). "To get such shells proper attention to management and diet of the chickens is needed. Clean litter for floor and nests is necessary, of course. Diets that cause droppings to be loose and watery may also soil eggs. Among the causes of such droppings are too much salt; too much oyster shell, ground limestone or bone meal; and too much bran or other coarse, fibrous feedstuffs in the ration. An excess of salt may result from a mistake in weighing out this ingredient or from using a fish meal of abnormally high salt content. At times the consistency of the droppings can be improved by including 2 or 3 percent of linseed meal in the feed. Larger quantities tend to have a laxative effect. If the linseed meal fails to have the desired effect, it may be necessary to reduce the quantity of bran or to decrease the percent of salt, oyster shell, limestone or bone meal in the diet. Smoothness and strength of shell depend on both diet and inheritance. Hens that produce such eggs should not be used as breeders. Nutritionally, poor shells may be caused by a deficiency of vitamin D or calcium, or by a marked imbalance of the calcium and phosphorus in the diet. There is also some evidence that a deficiency of manganese may contribute to the production of poor shells. Undoubtedly, other factors are involved, but what they are and the part they play are not known."

Flowers in Shade      Florists are planting their summer flowers in cloth houses. Superior chrysanthemums, marigolds and roses were produced, at Ohio State University, in a canvas house 100 feet long, 65 feet wide and 6 feet high. Asters bore twice as many blooms as those planted in the open. The blossoms of those sheltered asters were 10 percent larger and had 50 percent longer stems than their outdoor cousins. (Country Home Magazine, June.)

May 25, 1939

Senate Concurred in the House amendments to S. 1096, to  
May 23 amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937,  
to make its provisions applicable to apples produced in  
Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The amendments substituted "apples pro-  
duced in the States of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho" for "Pacific  
Northwest boxed apples." This bill will now be sent to the President.

Continued debate on S. 2009, to amend the Interstate Commerce Act by extending its application to additional types of carriers and transportation and modifying certain provisions thereof.

Committee on Interstate Commerce reported with amendments S. 162, wool products labeling bill (S. Rept. 467).

House Agreed to a resolution to send to conference H. R.  
May 23 5269, agricultural appropriation bill. Immediately preceding the voice vote on the resolution, the previous question was ordered by a vote of 192 to 181. The following House conferees were appointed: Mr. Cannon of Mo., Mr. Taryer, and Mr. Lamberton.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Rubber Tires on Farms      A survey by Professor E. G. McKibben, of Iowa State College, shows that farm users of tractor rubber tires estimate them to last an average of seven years, that average use of rubber-tired tractors averaged about 1000 hours per year, and that with reasonable care the average repair cost was negligible, even on the oldest tires. The emphatic approval of rubber tires for tractors is shown by the fact that in 1938 two-thirds of the new tractors sold were equipped with pneumatic tires as compared with only 14 percent in 1935. (Ohio Farmer, May 20.)

Animal The June issue of the North American Veterinarian  
Hospitals contains papers delivered at the recent meeting of the  
American Animal Hospital Association. An address by the  
president reports that this association, now six years old, has begun  
the issuance of a bulletin every other month. Various papers discuss  
radiography and physical therapy, and animal hospital management and  
equipment.

Southern Livestock An editorial in the Nashville Panner (May 16) on livestock in the South, says: "Exemplifying the trend in Kentucky the State College of Agriculture reports more inquiries for breeding stock this spring than for any recent year, and says that large numbers of farmers throughout the State are in the market for quality cattle, hogs, and sheep. In practically all cases, the calls are for registered breeding stock, and the college reports that 65 percent of the bulls in Kentucky now are purebred. More than 1,200 registered bulls, purebred cows and heifers were placed last year alone on Kentucky farms--an impressive fact in the State's efforts toward livestock improvement..."

# DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXIII, No. 40

Section 1

May 26, 1939

**AMERICAN IMPORT TRADE** Secretary of Commerce Harry L. Hopkins last night told 1,500 business men, industrialists and financiers at the ninth annual world trade dinner that his department was preparing to assign a group of specialists to study the possibility of increasing American import trade, particularly from Latin America. Their task, he said, will be to seek foreign products that would not "unduly compete" with United States goods and that would be susceptible of advantageous use in industry and consumption here. The principal objective will be an enlargement of American foreign trade in both directions, offsetting the "unwholesome" export balance of more than \$1,000,-000,000 last year. (New York Times.)

**COTTON CROP ESTIMATES** The Agriculture Department issued revised estimates yesterday for the 1938 cotton crop showing production, exclusive of linters, to have been 11,943,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, compared with 18,946,000 bales in 1937. Cotton under cultivation July 1, 1938, was 25,018,000 acres, compared with 34,090,000 a year earlier. The area picked last year was 24,248,000 acres, compared with 33,326,000 in 1937. Yield of lint cotton was 235.8 pounds to the acre, compared with 269.9 pounds in 1937. (A.F.).

**OMNIBUS R.R. BILL** The omnibus railroad bill was adopted by the Senate yesterday by a vote of 70 to 6 soon after that body rejected decisively an amendment which proposed to delete from the measure provisions to transfer authority over waterways to the Interstate Commerce Commission. These votes, the victory for the bill and defeat of the waterways amendment, rejected on a rollcall, 57 to 22, placed in position for House action a measure designed primarily to equalize the competitive position of railroads by subjecting water-borne domestic commerce to the same regulation as that now applied to railroads, buses and trucks operating in interstate commerce. (New York Times.)

**SURPLUS BUTTER** The Agriculture Department authorized the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation yesterday to buy an additional 25,000,000 pounds of surplus butter before June 30. The FSCC had previously bought 90,000,000 pounds. The butter is distributed to needy families through state relief agencies. (A.F.).

May 26, 1939

U.S.D.A. Crop Estimating C. F. Sarle, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in an article on crop estimating in the Agricultural Situation (May) says: "Estimates of production are made each year for 120 separate crops for the United States and for individual States. The annual estimates of crop production, exclusive of tree and bush crops, are made by multiplying the estimates of acreage harvested by estimates of yield per harvested acre. The Federal agricultural census enumeration, now taken every 5 years, furnishes the base or starting point for annual estimates of acreage in the various crops in subsequent years. The percentage change in acreage from year to year is estimated from a sample of individual farms showing acreages in the various crops obtained by mail from farmers in all parts of the country. The estimate of change is applied to the estimate of acreage for the previous year (and to the base year if the previous year is not a census year) in arriving at an estimate of acreage for the current year. The Federal census establishes the level of the acreage whereas the annual sample data determine the change in acreage from year to year or from the base (census) year to the current year. It is apparent that the reliability of annual acreage estimates depends upon (1) the completeness and accuracy of the Federal census enumerations of crop acreages used as "bench marks" by the Department in making annual estimates, and (2) the size and representativeness of the annual samples of crop acreages used in estimating year-to-year change in acreage. Fully half the crops for which the Department of Agriculture makes annual estimates of acreage and production were not included in the 'short' Federal census schedule of either 1924 or 1934. Even in the fairly comprehensive 1929 census schedule fully one-fourth of the crops either were not included or were only 'written in' on the schedule. Most of the localized commercial crops that were included in 1929, either on the regular schedule or on supplementary schedules, were so incompletely covered that the census data have been of little value as bench marks for subsequent annual estimates."

Exports to Philippines Exports from the United States to the Philippine Islands amounted to \$90,357,000 in 1938, making this country's share of the Philippine import trade 68 percent, the largest in the history of their trade, according to the Department of Commerce. Last year's exports from the United States to the islands were the largest since 1929 and represented an increase of 42.5 percent over 1937. The most important factor in last year's gain was the increased sale of cotton piece goods in the Philippine market, Secretary Hopkins reported. Importers and retailers last year were ordering from American manufacturers certain types of textiles never before sold in the Philippines. The main reason for the rise in this country's textile shipments was the decline in Philippine imports of Japanese products. (Press.)

Ready-Made Poultry House "Factory-made poultry houses that are shipped in sections and readily assembled on the farm without skilled labor are making excellent records for themselves," says an article in *Successful Farming* (June). "Foundations may be permanent or not, depending upon the owner's circumstances. Renters find it convenient to remove a few bolts and move such houses. They can thus undertake poultry-raising without fear that no suitable housing will be furnished by their landlords. Farm-owners appreciate the convenience of shifting such houses to clean ranges. Many houses of this type are readily moved short distances without dismantling. Sections are plainly marked for convenience in assembling and are thoroughly painted. Creosote is applied at the factory where indicated. As a rule, nests, dropping boards, and roosts are included. In some cases the buyer may specify the kind of roofing material wanted. To many of the houses now available it is possible to add sections where more room is needed. Careful attention has been given to ventilation, lighting, and sanitation. And a complete line of laying and brooder houses is manufactured by the companies which now offer portable laying houses."

Vegetable Investigations "For the past several years the United States Department of Agriculture, through its Bureau of Plant Industry, has maintained in the Torrey Pines section of San Diego county (Calif.) an experimental station, wherein the various strains of melons, lettuce, and other vegetable commodities have been propagated and experimented with by the late Dr. Ivan Jagger," says *Western Grower and Shipper* (May). "We are now assured that the splendid work done by Dr. Jagger in the perfection of mildew resistant melon strains and blight resistant lettuce strains will be continued under the leadership of Dr. Thomas W. Whitaker, who has for the past several years been the assistant of Dr. Jagger. We are also informed that there is a very good possibility of Dr. Whitaker receiving additional help in the way of assistance from the Department in Washington. We are very grateful to Dr. Auchter and his Bureau for the interest taken in this matter."

Cooperative Terracing Cooperative terracing is the plan used in Shelby county, Kentucky, where the farm bureau cooperative association in three years has terraced 2,340 acres of land and built 224 farm reservoirs with a 40-horsepower tractor and a grader bought at a total cost of \$4,500. By the time the first tractor had to be replaced (at 30 months, with 5,000 hours of work done), the \$4,500 indebtedness had been cut down to \$900. Charges for terracing are \$4 an hour; for farm reservoirs, \$5 an hour. All told, the outfit has served 225 farms, doing work which farmers had not time or equipment to do. To start things moving, the farm bureau borrowed \$1,100 from farmers and business firms three years ago, and gave them certificates of indebtedness bearing 6 percent interest, secured by a second mortgage on the equipment. The \$1,100 was used as a down payment. Notes were given for the balance. (*Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife*, June.)

May 26, 1939

Senate  
May 24

Continued debate on S. 2009, to amend the Interstate Commerce <sup>Act</sup> by extending its application to additional types of carriers and transportation and modifying certain provisions thereof.

House  
May 24

Agreed to H. Con. Res. 23, providing \$7,000 additional for the Joint Committee on Forestry.

Received the conference report on S. 572, to provide for acquisition of strategic military materials.

Received from the Secretary of Agriculture a draft of proposed amendments to the United States Warehouse Act; to Com. on Agriculture.

(Prepared by the Office of Budget and Finance.)

Federal  
Land Use

"Recent dedications to the people of land utilization projects in the South--one in South Carolina, one in Georgia, two in Mississippi, three in Arkansas, and two in Oklahoma -- have centered attention once again on the Federal land-use program," says C. B. Sherman, Bureau Agricultural Economics, in Southern Agriculturist (June). "A tract near Clemson, South Carolina, of 23,000 acres that were worn out and idle is being developed into productive pastures, forests and public recreation places. In Georgia, a project covering more than 37,000 acres is devoted chiefly to restoring second-growth timber to permanent forests. In northeast Mississippi the project is a 90,000-acre demonstration of better land use for forestry, grazing, recreation and wildlife. The others are somewhat similar...Dr. L. C. Gray, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is responsible for carrying out this great plan... 'We have charted the country roughly', says Dr. Gray, 'and we now know where the problem areas are. The most pressing localities, from the viewpoint of those living on the land, are known. Our regional directors are in first-hand touch with developments there... We have acquired about 9,100,000 acres at a cost of about \$41,000,000 for the land alone. Congress, through the Bankhead-Jones Act, authorized \$10,000,000 for carrying out a program of land use last year and large sums for this year and next. We expect to obtain options on 2,250,000 acres for approved projects... Most of the land we now hold lies in the South, in the Great Plains, and in the cut-over country near the Great Lakes. Projects have been established in 39 states.... Some land is being used for general conservation work, including forestry and wildlife protection, some rehabilitated for later supervised grazing, and some is being prepared for the recreation of the people... Programs for land use look far ahead. They may be modified from time to time with changes in economic and social conditions...'"

Safety Hitch

Safety hitches are being improved to meet the needs of high-speed farming. A new hitch, which automatically releases a plow or cultivator from the tractor when it hits a stone or root, can be set to react to a tension of anything from 500 to 5,000 pounds. It will fit any kind of tractor. (Country Home Magazine, June.)